





## Turkey's Demirel to visit Egypt in attempt to calm Arab anger

ANKARA (R) — President Suleyman Demirel visits Egypt this week in an effort to dampen Arab anger at Turkey boosting military cooperation with Israel despite the deadlock in the Middle East peace process.

Mr. Demirel is expected to tell Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak Tuesday that plans for naval manoeuvres between Turkey, Israel and the United States pose no threat to the Arab World.

"If there is a misunderstanding regarding the Turkish-Israeli relationship, it will be eliminated by us," said a senior adviser to Mr. Demirel.

The exercises, set for November in the eastern Mediterranean, are ostensibly rehearsals for joint search and rescue operations. But for many Arabs they overtly carry political messages.

Damascus earlier this month condemned the war games as "a desperate attempt to pressure Syria to change its principled stand" in the Middle East peace process.

An aide to Mr. Demirel denied that NATO member

Turkey is taking sides in the Middle East dispute after decades on the sidelines.

"Turkey does not have a policy of creating pacts in the Middle East. We believe peace can come to the region only by cooperation among countries," he said.

Turkey's secular military signed an accord with Israel last year under which Israeli pilots have trained in Turkish skies.

The deal was seen as a strategic blow to Turkey's neighbours Syria and Iran, which Ankara accuses of sponsoring Kurdish separatist rebels in its southeastern border regions.

Mr. Demirel and Mr. Mubarak met last year to discuss Turkey's new ties to Israel, which include a free trade agreement, which went into effect earlier this year, and high-ranking military visits.

The two presidents will hold their talks this week in the coastal city of Alexandria.

"(Egypt) wants to be assured by the Turkish side that these manoeuvres will not be against any Arab country," an Arab diplomat in

Ankara said. "They would like to sort this out once and for all."

The naval exercises put Turkey out of step with other Muslim countries which are distancing themselves again from Israel under right-wing Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

Saudi Arabia and Egypt have threatened to boycott a planned Middle East economic summit to be attended by Israel because of what they say is Israel's disruption of the peace process with the Palestinians.

U.S. officials say Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, on a Middle East tour, has asked Saudi Arabia and Egypt to attend the gathering.

Mr. Mubarak and Mr. Demirel are also expected to discuss the search of an Egyptian ship in Istanbul's Bosphorus Strait earlier this month during a Turkish hunt for anti-aircraft missiles believed to be headed for the Greek Cypriot sector of Cyprus.

Turkey says Cairo has assured it that missile parts found on the vessel were not being shipped to Cyprus.

## Sudan accuses Egypt of violating its airspace

KHARTOUM (AP) — Sudan says that Egypt violated its airspace by sending three warplanes south of the 22nd Parallel, the pro-government Alwan daily reported Sunday.

It was the latest allegation by Sudan about Egyptian activities in and around Halaib, a disputed triangle of land between the two countries. The southern boundary of Halaib is at the 22nd Parallel.

Alwan quoted unnamed military officials in Khartoum as saying the Egyptian jets were sighted in the middle of last week.

There was no immediate comment from Egyptian military officials.

The action came "within the chain of Egyptian provocations against Sudanese authorities in Halaib province," the paper said.

The paper also said Egypt was conducting military

training exercises in Halaib that included the firing of rockets.

Sudan and Egypt have contested ownership of Halaib since Sudan's independence in 1956.

Egyptian troops moved into the area in force in 1993 as tension between the two states rose after Cairo accused Sudan of supporting Muslim insurgents in Egypt.

Egypt has allowed Halaib's Sudanese inhabi-

itants and Sudanese security forces to remain but has announced plans to develop the area.

Last week, Sudan accused Egypt of cutting off drinking water to Sudanese residents of Halaib and firing artillery shells near the area's Sudanese garrison.

Sudan filed a protest with the Arab League Wednesday and asked the organisation to intervene.

Relations between Egypt

and Sudan have been strained since a military coup in 1989 brought Lieutenant General Omar Al Bashir to power in Sudan and he installed an Islamic regime.

They worsened in 1995 when Cairo accused Khartoum of involvement in an assassination attempt against Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Sudan has denied any role in the attack.

## More efforts on Cyprus issue after vote — Clerides

NICOSIA (R) — Cypriot President Glafcos Clerides said Sunday he expected efforts to solve the Cyprus problem to intensify after presidential elections on the island next February.

"Cyprus's Hellenism is expecting the initiative to reach its highest level after the presidential elections," Mr. Clerides said at the unveiling of a memorial for victims of Turkey's 1974 invasion.

"In the meantime, we are moving with the aim of having the best possible preparations so that this time talks are effective."

But Mr. Clerides, leader of the Greek Cypriot Community, said his side would be more optimistic if the international community applied pressure on Ankara to quit its "intransigence and adopt a constructive policy" on Cyprus.

Turkey has some 30,000 troops stationed in northern Cyprus.

Mr. Clerides and Turkish Cypriot leader Rauf Denktaş held inclusive talks on the division of the island at Troutbeck, New York, in July and near Montreux, Switzerland, in August.

The aim of the talks was

to restart stalled negotiations on the reunification as a bicommunal bizonal federation, a goal eluding international mediators for decades.

A new round of talks between the two leaders has not been scheduled.

Cyprus has been virtually partitioned since Turkish forces invaded in 1974 in response to a brief Greek Cypriot coup in the capital, Nicosia, engineered by the military then ruling Greece.

Mr. Clerides, president of the Greek Cypriot-led government, is due to announce next month whether he will

stand for reelection or not.

In addition to deep-rooted differences between the two sides on issues relating to sovereignty, security and territorial issues, the Turkish Cypriot side strongly objects to EU action on an application for membership of the entire island by Mr. Clerides' government, internationally recognised as the only government of the island.

Mr. Denktaş does not recognise its right to act on behalf of the Turkish Cypriots, whose own state, proclaimed in 1983, is recognised only by Turkey.

## Forest named after Yaquob Salti

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Greater Amman Municipality will name an 85-dunum forest in Umm Quasir and Al Mughbalain, southeast Amman, after Yaquob Salti, former director of the Range and Afforestation Department, in appreciation of his professional efforts. Mayor Mamdouh Abbadi announced Sunday.

"The late Mr. Salti played a great role in greening the Kingdom during his service," Dr. Abbadi said in a statement.

## Iran, Iraq to swap troops' remains

TEHRAN (R) — Iran and Iraq will exchange the remains of soldiers killed in their 1980-1988 war, the official news agency IRNA said Sunday. The exchange will take place Monday at the border town of Shalamcheh, Khuzestan province, IRNA said, quoting a report by the armed forces cultural affairs department. It did not say how many soldiers' remains would be swapped at the border crossing in western Iran. Iran and Iraq have exchanged remains of many of their soldiers in the past and repatriated tens of thousands of prisoners of war (PoWs). But they have not yet resolved all issues relating to soldiers missing in action and the PoWs, a dispute still hindering normalisation of ties between the former foes.

## Israeli tobacco giant sued by sick smokers

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — Israeli tobacco giant Dubek is being sued by 15 smokers who say they contracted illnesses from the company's cigarettes, press reports said Sunday. The joint lawsuit, demanding damages of \$4.5 million, is unprecedented in the Jewish state and is due to be heard by a Tel Aviv court later this week. The 15 smokers — all suffering from cancer, cardiovascular problems or respiratory illness — say Dubek's advertising campaigns promised tobacco consumers a feeling of well-being and vitality. They also say the company failed to respect a law passed in 1983 requiring all tobacco companies to put health warnings on their products.

## Women's conv legal concerns

Director of the Ellen ... The issue ... women ... legal ... concerns ...

## WHAT'S

... what's ...

## ARRIVALS

... arrivals ...

## DEPARTURES

... departures ...



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### JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 773111-19

#### PROGRAMME TWO

14:10 The Show With the Mouse  
14:30 Cowboys of the Moo Mesa  
15:00 Gillette Sports Special  
15:30 Deep Water Haven  
16:00 Animal Show  
16:30 Ocean Girl  
17:15 French Programmes  
19:00 News in French  
19:15 French programme  
19:30 News Headline  
19:35 Neighbours  
20:00 Comedy — Murphy Brown  
20:30 Babylon 5  
21:10 Highlander  
22:35 News in English  
23:15 Emergency Room  
23:15 Homicide

#### PRAYER TIMES

04:56 Fajr  
06:14 (Sunrise) Duha  
12:31 Dhuhur  
16:02 'Asr  
18:48 Maghreh  
20:06 'Isha

#### CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church  
Sweith, Tel. 810740  
Assemblies of God Church Tel. 632785  
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590  
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440  
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757

### JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

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#### TERA SANTA CHURCH Tel. 622366

Anglican Church Tel. 652826

Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261

St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751

Armenian International Church Tel. 5516345

Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 824328

German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 688404

The Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932

Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691

The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295

English-speaking Latin Catholics Parish Tel. 614190

#### WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology  
Dry and hot weather conditions will prevail with temperatures higher than average by 4-5 degrees centigrade and winds southeasterly moderate. In Aqaba, it will be hot, winds northerly moderate, and seas calm.  
Min/Max temp. Amman 20/36

#### USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

#### NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:

Dr. Walid Al Masri 675485

Dr. Youssef Rashid 875792

Dr. Jum'a Abu Dhiab 758848

Dr. Khalil Jhali 740740

Firas pharmacy 661912

Ferdows pharmacy 778336

Al Asema pharmacy 637055

Nairokh pharmacy 623672

Al Salam pharmacy 636730

Yacoub pharmacy 644945

Shmeisani pharmacy 637660

Najib pharmacy 847632

IRBID:

Dr. Mazen Abu Bakir 276852

Al Quds pharmacy (—)

ZARQA:

Dr. Walid Halaseh 982799

Khalifeh pharmacy 985417

#### EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111

Civil Defence Department 661111

Civil Defence Immediate Rescue 650341

Civil Defence Emergency 199

Rescue Police 192 621111, 637777

Fire Brigade 617101

Blood Bank 775121

Highway Police 843402

Traffic Police 896390

Public Security Dept 630321

Hotel Complaints 661176

Price Complaints 661176

Water & Sewage Complaints 897467

Amman Municipality Complaints 787111

Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121

Overseas Calls 010230

Central Amman Telephone

Repairs 623101

Abdali Tel. Repairs 661101

Jordan Television 773111

Radio Jordan 774111

Water Authority 680100

J. Electricity Authority 815615

Electric Power Co. 636381

RJ Flight Information 08-53200

Queen Alia Int. Airport 08-53200

#### Khalidi Maternity 644281/6

Akileh Maternity 642412

Jabal Amman Maternity 642362

Mallhas, J. Amman 656140

Palestine, Surmeisani 607071

Shmeisani Hospital 669131

University Hospital 845845

Al-Muasher Hospital 6672379

The Islamic, Abdali 666126/7

Al-Ahli, Abdali 6641646

Italian, Al-Muhajreen 777101/3

Al-Bashir 775111/26

Army, Marka 891611/5

Queen Alia Hospital 602240/50

Amal Hospital 674155

The Arab Centre for Heart and Special Surgery 865199

ZARQA:

Zarqa Govt. Hospital

(09)983323

Zarqa National Hospital

(09)900560

Jeddah (RJ)

10:25 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)

10:25 Beirut (RJ)

15:25 Kuwait (RJ)

17:30 London (RJ)

17:40 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)

#### FOR THE TRAVELLER

#### QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)33200-5, where it should always be verified. Information on other flights can be supplied on phone (08)52700.

#### ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights

08:05 Damascus (RJ)

08:05 Sanaa (RJ)

09:30 Jeddah (RJ)

09:45 New Delhi (RJ)

10:20 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)

10:25 Beirut (RJ)

15:25 Kuwait (RJ)

17:30 London (RJ)

17:40 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)

19:30 Casablanca, Tunis (RJ)

20:10 Milan (RJ)

20:40 Cairo (RJ)

22:15 Bangkok, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)

04:00 Jakarta, Abu Dhabi (RJ)

06:55 Singapore, Kuala Lumpur, Abu Dhabi (add) (RJ)

08:05 Damascus (RJ)

08:05 Sanaa (RJ)

09:30 Jeddah (RJ)

09:45 New Delhi (RJ)

10:20 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)

10:25 Beirut (RJ)

15:25 Kuwait (RJ)

#### Other Flights

08:10 Doha (add) (GF)

14:10 Muscat, Bahrain (GF)

15:05 Vienna (OS)

16:50 Doha (QR)

19:50 Tel Aviv (LY)

20:15 Dubai (EK)

21:10 Paris, Damascus (AF)

21:10 Beirut (ME)

22:15 Cairo (MS)

23:30 Athens (OA)

01:20 Amsterdam, Damascus (KL)

Royal Wings (RW)

07:05 Tel Aviv (RW)

08:25 Amman (QAIA) (RW)



## Government to implement social package benefiting poor areas, refugee camps

AMMAN (J.T.) — The government will embark next year on a comprehensive Social Productivity Programme (SPP) to improve the living standards of citizens in the underdeveloped regions of Jordan, including the Palestinian refugee camps, Ministry of Planning Secretary General Nabil Ammari said Sunday.

During the opening session of a five-day workshop, organised by the ministry in cooperation with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the U.S. Agency for International Development, Dr. Ammari said the programme will address the social needs of the community and improve economic services.

The programme entails restructuring the National Aid Fund, which provides assistance to the poor, providing underprivileged areas with physical and social infrastructure, improving the operations of the micro-finance network to strengthen income capacity, and providing training to the poor and unemployed, he explained.

The government has begun the Community Infrastructure Project to provide the most needed services to poor communities, improve their quality of life, and provide a safer and healthier environment,



UNDP Representative Jorgen Lissner, Ministry of Planning Secretary General Nabil Ammari, and Housing and Urban Development Corporation Chief Yusef Hiyasat (seated left to right) attend the opening session of a five-day social services workshop (Petra photo)

according to Dr. Ammari. The financing of this first-stage project includes a government contribution of \$30 million, a \$30 million World Bank loan, a German government grant of nearly \$12 million, and a soft loan from Italy of \$29 million, in addition to a UNDP grant of \$1.7 million to fund the overall coordination unit at the Ministry of Planning, he detailed.

Yusef Batsoun, head of the ministry's infrastructure

scheme, said the government estimates that SPP will cost JD431 million, with the three-year first phase costing \$150 million.

According to Yusef Hiyasat, head of the Housing and Urban Development Corporation, initial-stage projects within SPP will be carried out at 14 sites in Amman, Ruseifa, and Zarqa.

UNDP resident representative Jorgen Lissner told the opening session that

SPP aims at improving the standard of living of residents in villages and rural regions by improving roads, schools, electricity, and water services.

Representatives of a number of concerned ministries, in addition to the Cities and Villages Development Bank, the Department of Palestinian Affairs, and a number of non-governmental organisations operating in Jordan, are taking part in the meetings.

## Ministry examining plans for Amman-Zarqa light rail

By Rana Hussein  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Ministry of Transport and Telecommunication officials Sunday confirmed that the ministry is studying the possibility of building a light rail system between Amman and Zarqa within the next three years.

The 41.7 kilometre project, which will cost an estimated \$83.4 million, will connect downtown Amman with Zarqa, according to Director of Railways at the Ministry of Transport and Telecommunication Yashia Jdaitawi.

He told the Jordan Times Sunday that the ministry is currently seeking consultation from abroad, "to help us prepare the technical, legal, and financial steps for

a bid to the private sector." "We are hoping that by the end of next year, we will have signed an agreement with investors to start the project, which will take two more years to complete," Mr. Jdaitawi said.

Mr. Jdaitawi said the ministry is targeting foreign companies to build the rail system, adding that several international companies have already expressed interest in building the railway system and have conducted private studies for the project.

The companies that have expressed interest are based in the Netherlands, France, Germany, Canada, the U.S., and the U.K., he said.

Jordan's public sector cannot cover the cost of the construction of the rail system, Mr. Jdaitawi explained.

The ministry official stressed that the primary goals of this project are public safety, energy conservation, the environment, and the elimination of traffic jams.

"Our current transportation system is backwards. This step would modernise the transportation system and increase the employment rate," Mr. Jdaitawi said.

The light rail system will not affect the current private and public transportation systems, which carry more than 120,000 passengers daily between Amman and Zarqa, he said.

"These transportation vehicles will work to transport passengers to the new train stations," Mr. Jdaitawi explained.

The ministry official said the new project will "hopefully create competition and force bus drivers and owners to improve their services."

"We are hoping to convince people that it is not a shame to use public transportation and much better to use the new transportation system once it is operating," he said.

He added that if this experiment succeeds, the ministry plans to expand the light rail system to other crowded areas that are in need of such services.

"The new system, when built, will hopefully solve transportation for the next 30 years, and hopefully will be a push for us to expand," he concluded.

## Fifth science week to focus on Jordanian competitiveness, productivity in world market

By Nadia Mukhlis  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Fifth Jordanian Science Week, entitled "Enhancing Jordanian Competitiveness: Quality, Productivity, Transparency and Accountability," is being held Sept. 15-18 under the patronage of HRH Crown Prince Hassan, Chairman of the Higher Council for Science and Technology (HCST), and is organised by the Royal Scientific Society (RSS) in cooperation with HCST.

The conference will be attended by many local and international experts in order to discuss various national issues and devise recommen-

dations to promote the quality of work, increase productivity, and introduce transparency, according to Rana Khatib, coordinator for the information committee at RSS.

The activities of this week will be preceded by three roundtable meetings concerning the industrial policy in Jordan in comparison to the Japanese and Canadian experiences in tackling the issues of bloated management, transparency, and accountability, Ms. Khatib explained.

Transparency and accountability in civil service and legislation in the Kingdom comprise the first topic of discussion, according to RSS President Said Alloush.

The second issue will be

quality, with the aim of promoting this concept and drawing up policies and laws to enhance the share of national institutions in world trade, Dr. Alloush explained.

The third and final issue will be productivity, with the objective of enhancing the productivity of Jordanian organisations to consequently improve their competitiveness, especially in industrial services and intellectual fields, he concluded.

The conclusions reached on these issues will be included in a national charter or platform of action that will provide access for national organisations to the economic, cultural, and intellectual activities taking place in the

institutional arena, Ms. Khatib explained.

The science week is an occasion for all sectors of society to discuss sensitive and important issues in a local context, she said.

The subjects to be discussed "are of great significance, because they help prepare us to face the world in the fields of economy, education, culture, and society, as well as assist us to effectively participate in life's various aspects," Dr. Alloush clarified.

The participation of the concerned parties represents the basic foundation for similar events to follow, Ms. Khatib concluded.

## Women's convention on social, legal concerns to start today

By Hind-Lara Mango  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Women from all over the Kingdom will gather today at the Amman Convention on Women's Demands to discuss a 26-point agenda for women's needs, including enhancing women's political awareness for the upcoming parliamentary elections.

The convention is the culmination of four separate agendas focusing on the political, economic, social, educational, health, and environmental demands of women living in the Agaba, Irbid, Mafrqa, and Zarqa governorates.

Al Kutba Institute for Human Development, the Conrad Adenauer Foundation, and the General Federation of Jordanian Women sponsored workshops in the four governorates this year to formulate a single agenda on women's needs.

The convention will bring together the elected representatives of these four workshops to interact with women representatives from all governorates, co-Director of Al Kutba Institute for Human Development Josi Pikartz Salim told the Jordan Times.

"The ten-point agendas that were generated from each workshop have been merged into a 26-point list of priorities, since many listings overlapped," she explained.

"This bodes well for the future, since it means there is a consensus among these women, regardless of geography, lifestyle, or age," co-

Director of Al Kutba Institute Ellen Khoury told the Jordan Times.

The issue of amending the Nationality Law so that women may pass Jordanian nationality to non-Jordanian husbands and children ranked very high on the list of priorities on all four agendas, Mrs. Khoury explained.

She added that women feel this particular point is an obstacle toward equal rights with men.

Other legal matters of common concern, Mrs. Khoury said, were the cancellation of the law of reduced penalty for crimes of honour, and the amendment of the Civil Status Law.

Women feel that they need more protection from polygamy and divorce without proper reason, she explained.

Other issues include increased compensation for divorcees, alimony, child custody regulations favourable to women, and entitlement to a passport without the approval of a male guardian, according to Mrs. Khoury.

These demands are to be submitted to the legal committee of Parliament and the government, as well as Parliament as a whole, she added.

In the economic category, women demanded part-time employment opportunities, she said.

"Women equate financial independence with dignity. These women want to be able to earn a living to satisfy their immediate needs

without being dependent," she elaborated.

The agendas indicated that women want to receive adequate health care, since there were repeated complaints of bad treatment, Dr. Salim said, adding "women [living in these governorates] are not being sufficiently informed of diagnosis and treatment."

Two presentations will be given Monday on arguments supporting the women's agenda by professionals in legal, health, and economic fields.

"We think women need more knowledge to make good judgements and decisions," Dr. Salim said.

On the second day, participants will be brought together with experts and politicians to prepare action plans. Building lobbies and pressure groups is the third presentation included in Tuesday's deliberations.

"Women have basic techniques for building an inner core of volunteers and distributing roles," said Mrs. Khoury, "but I don't think women candidates have yet made the mental or physical step toward going out and fundraising."

"In campaigning, we have to bring together the traditional and modern ways and find a place in between in launching and maintaining a campaign successfully," she said.

Mrs. Khoury concluded by saying "to be able to achieve results, women should be realistic and strike a balance between what is possible and what is desired."

## Ministry sends notifications to parties accused of violating law

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Ministry of Interior has sent notifications to 16 political parties that it said have committed financial and organisational acts in violation of the provisions of the 1992 Jordanian Political Parties Law (JPPL).

A report in the local press Sunday quoted Minister of Interior Nahir Rashid as saying the violations were discovered during the ministry's examination of documents concerning these parties' financial affairs.

The parties have been given a mandate ending on Dec. 31 to adjust to the requirements and provisions of the JPPL. Otherwise, legal action will be taken against them.

The time limit is sufficient for them to comply with the regulations, and also offers party members wishing to run in the upcoming general elections sufficient time to prepare, according to the minister.

The ministry last month said it intended to prosecute political parties that fail to comply with the law or submit statements about their financial resources to the ministry for examination.

According to article 20 of the law, parties must provide the minister of interior with a copy of their fiscal budgets in the first quarter of every year, detailing financial resources as well as their financial situation.

The minister was quoted Sunday as saying Ibrahim Ghosheh, the spokesperson for the Palestinian resistance movement, Hamas, was still being questioned about recent statements that he said were considered harmful to Jordan's national security, but he added that Mr. Ghosheh will be released soon, after questioning is complete.

The minister denied allegations that the arrest of Mr. Ghosheh came in response to a request from the Palestinian National Authority, stressing that Jordan enjoys full sovereignty and freely takes its own decisions without any external influence.

## Jordanian cultural crafts on display at Jordan Craft Centre

By Nadia Mukhlis  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Jordanian and Arab heritage and culture are being displayed under the patronage of HRH Princess Wijdan Ali in an exhibition of paintings and clothing by Darleen Wilkerson entitled "Arab Medinas and Batik" at the Jordan Craft Centre (JCC) Al Aydi.

The JCC promotes as many craftspeople as possible who produce works of art that express Jordanian and Arab culture, civilisation, and heritage, JCC Director May Khouri said.

According to Ms. Wilker-

son, after spending time in Yemen, Pakistan, and Poland researching and developing art programmes, she settled in Amman and began producing batiks depicting scenes that reflect the feeling of Jordan and detail interesting architecture.

Batik is a process in which wax is used to prevent dye from colouring cotton fabric in certain areas, thus producing designs, Ms. Wilkerson elucidated.

After the process, the wax is ironed out and the cloth is framed, she said.

The exhibition is on display until Sept. 25.

## Agricultural projects to begin next year

AMMAN (Petra) — Starting at the beginning of 1998, the Ministry of Agriculture will begin implementation of three five-year agricultural projects to be funded by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the ministry recently announced.

Salem Ekour, director of projects department at the ministry, said a \$9 million project, for which documents and plans have already been prepared, concerns development of approximately 500,000 dunams of pasture lands.

The project is also expected to provide a data base of the pastures, and policies for their development in the future, he said.

Preparatory work was conducted in 1995 for the second project, the development of the Yarmouk River basin, he said.

The estimated cost of \$45 million has led the ministry to contact international financiers, he explained.

He said IFAD has expressed willingness to finance this project, adding that an IFAD delegation is currently studying the project in detail and will report to their headquarters to seek approval.

The third project concerns the development of the Petra region, where a prepared study for promoting agriculture will be implemented, he said.

The study covered prospects for planting fruit and forest trees, drilling artesian wells, collecting rain water, and providing infrastructure for successful farming, he explained.

The total area in the Petra region to be developed is estimated at 75,000 dunams, he said, adding that the project will begin with the upcoming agricultural season and is expected to cost JD28 million.

## WHAT'S GOING ON

### DARAT AL FUNUN SUMMER '97 FESTIVAL

- \* Seminar entitled "An Evaluation of the Difference Between the Graphic Print and the Monoprint" by Iraqi artist Rifa Nasiri and Syrian artist Ziad Dalloul at 7:00 p.m.
- \* Graphics by Rifa Nasiri of Iraq, Ziad Dalloul of Syria, and Najia Mehajji at the South Hall.
- \* Paintings by Jordanian artist Mohammad Qaliooka at the Middle Hall.
- \* Sculpture, drawings, and paintings by Jordanian artist Rajwa Ali.
- \* Works by contemporary Arab artists at the Blue House.
- \* Paintings by children of Zarqa reflecting on the problem of pollution at the Byzantine church.

### FILM

- \* "Sept Morts Sur Ordonnance" at the French Cultural Centre, Jabal Weibdeh at 8:30 p.m.

### LECTURE

- \* "Cultural Resources Management" (in Arabic) by Dr. Mohammad Wahib at the Friends of Archaeology Centre at 6:30 p.m.

### EXHIBITIONS

- \* Exhibition of photographs about the life of Chilean poet Pablo Neruda at Instituto Cervantes, Jabal Amman until Sept. 23.
- \* Works by Darleen Wilkerson entitled "Arab Madinas in Batik" at the Jordan Crafts Development Centre (Al Aydi), Jabal Amman, Second Circle, until Sept. 25.
- \* Works by Ali Al Yazbiki at the Jordan Plastic Art Association, Jabal Weibdeh, until Sept. 16.
- \* Fourth Pottery Exhibition by Mahmoud Sadiq and Da'ad Al Mufleh at Hamurabi Gallery, Gardens Street, until Sept. 19 (Tel. 5536098).
- \* Paintings exhibition entitled "La Radioactive" at the French Cultural Centre, until Sept. 30.
- \* Paintings by Palestinian artists entitled "Palestine the Reality and the Dream" at the Jordan National Gallery of Fine Arts, until Oct. 2 (except Tuesdays).
- \* Bani Hamida exhibition at Al Baidar Hall of Kan Zaman, until Sept. 20.

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## Sri Lanka's battle for highway enters 5th month amid heavy losses

COLOMBO (AFP) — Sri Lanka's biggest anti-separatist offensive aimed at opening a highway through Tamil rebel territory entered its fifth month Sunday having left thousands of dead on both sides.

Intense long-range artillery and mortar bomb attacks raged near the northern town of Puliyanakulam as the rebel Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) kept up ferocious resistance, officials said.

The government launched Operation "Sure Victory" on May 13 with the deployment of two divisions, or 20,000 soldiers, making it the country's largest single military campaign.

Casualties have been heavy for the military and the Tiger guerrillas who are leading a drawn out campaign for an independent homeland called Eelam in the island's north-east.

Official figures showed nearly 700 soldiers were killed and more than 3,500 wounded in the battle to capture a 75-kilometre stretch of road to the northern Peninsula of Jaffna.

Troops have so far covered only about 17 kilometres. "Troops are finding it difficult to overcome resistance because of the heavy mortar attacks," a defence source said. "Both sides know this could be the last big battle so the Tigers are giving their best shot."

If security forces can link the Jaffna Peninsula with the rest of the country through a land access, it will confine the Tigers to the northeastern jungles marginalising them militarily.

Tigers were driven out of Jaffna, their former de facto capital, in December 1995 after a 50-day battle that cost the lives of 600 government soldiers. However, the rebels continued to hold the only land route to the region.

Asian diplomats said the army had been keen to open the Jaffna road before November when the government hopes to present a radical power sharing peace plan in parliament.

The Tigers have rejected President Chandrika Kumaratunga's devolution package which seeks to turn the country into a federal state in all but name in exchange for ethnic peace.

Analysts also point out that there could be a lull in fighting when monsoon rains intensify later this month and the military may not be able to keep to its original target of opening the road by this month.

Defence Ministry spokesman, Brigadier Sarath

Munasinghe said 3,500 Tiger men and women had been killed by government forces in the past four months, but the rebels have rejected the government figures.

However, Sunday the LTTE's London office said in a statement a senior member of their movement was killed during fighting near Puliyanakulam and rebel-held areas of the north were mourning the death.

The LTTE said that a self-styled lieutenant colonel died 11 days ago near Puliyanakulam but his death will inspire "generations of fighters to rise up and defend the security and freedom of the Tamil nation."

"The streets have been decorated with traditional symbols of mourning and the red and yellow flag of Tamil Eelam is flying half-mast all over (rebel-held) Wanni (in Sri Lanka)," the LTTE statement said.

It said intense battles raged near the jungles northeast of Puliyanakulam with both sides exchanging heavy artillery and mortar bomb attacks.

"The LTTE using mortars to repulse the occupying forces," the Tigers said. "Sinhalese troops are retaliating with artillery and mortar shell-fire on Tamil civilian settlements located miles away from the battle scene."

Soldiers backed by tanks and air cover had skirted Puliyanakulam on the main highway to Jaffna and moved deeper into territory held by the LTTE, defence officials said.

Meanwhile, President Kumaratunga will start a state visit to Malaysia this week to sign business deals that are likely to draw large investments into the island nation's infrastructure sector.

A government statement Sunday said Ms. Kumaratunga, accompanied by officials and a 20-member business delegation, would meet Prime Minister Mahathir Mohammad and Malaysian businessmen.

The visit is the first by a Sri Lankan leader to the Southeast Asian nation in 30 years.

The statement said several agreements would be signed between the Board of Investment of Sri Lanka, which oversees foreign investments, and Malaysian conglomerates on projects including infrastructure development, industrial and science parks, airport expansion and technological cooperation.

It said Foreign Minister Lakshman Kadirgamar would address an investment seminar and Ms. Kumaratunga would speak to prospective investors at a business luncheon in Kuala Lumpur.



Miss Illinois Katherine Shindle (left) reacts as she is crowned Miss America 1998 by outgoing Miss America Tara Dawn Holland at the end of the 77th annual pageant Saturday in Atlantic City (Reuters photo)

## Miss Illinois wins 1998 Miss USA title

ATLANTIC CITY (R) — Miss Illinois Katherine Shindle, a 20-year-old senior at Northwestern University, won the 1998 Miss America pageant Saturday.

Miss Shindle of Evanston, Illinois, broke into an open-mouthed smile and mouthed "thank you" to the audience as the announcement of her victory brought cheers and applause from thousands of onlookers in the Atlantic City Convention Hall.

Miss America 1997 Tara Holland placed a rhinestone tiara on her successor's head and crooned the traditional anthem, "There she is," as the willowy brunette strolled down the runway through a blizzard of flashes and coloured stage lights.

Miss Shindle captured the top honour by beating Miss North Carolina Michelle Warren, the first runnerup. Miss Mississippi Myra Barginear was second runnerup, with Miss Arizona Stacey Moneyer third and Miss California Rebekah Ann Keller fourth.

As the pageant winner, Ms. Shindle will receive a \$40,000 scholarship and spend the year attending speaking engagements on AIDS prevention that are expected to earn her upwards of \$250,000.

Organisers, struggling to keep the annual extravaganza relevant, allowed contestants to wear two-piece swimsuits for the first time since 1947 in keeping with the theme, "Everything old is new again."

## China's ideologue rules out democracy, privatisation

BEIJING (R) — One of China's top spin doctors Sunday put his own twist on China's decision to revolutionise state ownership, ruling out privatisation or Western-style democracy in the world's biggest Communist nation.

Communist Party Chief Jiang Zemin Friday invoked political reform in his opening speech to a five-yearly party congress. But anyone who thought that signalled a go-ahead to multi-party democracy should think again, ideologue, Xing Benshi told the Xinhua news agency.

"China will draw on the good experience of Western democracy but will not copy Western democracy, such as the two-chamber system and multi-party electoral race," said Mr. Xing, vice president of the party school and editor-in-chief of the central committee magazine Seeking Truth.

Officials are also eager to prevent speculation about the real meaning of Mr. Jiang's call, carefully couched in communist doublespeak, to diversify ownership of tens of thousands of ailing state firms.

It was a "misunderstanding" to regard the adjustment of ownership simply as a question of the shareholding system, said Mr.

Xing, a close aide to Mr. Jiang and whose articles in the state media have been pivotal in Mr. Jiang's campaign to gain acceptance for his policy of political and economic change.

Mr. Jiang's pledge to allow a revolutionary shift in ownership of state firms, many mired in inefficiency and burdened by bad debt, would make mergers easier and could propel bigger companies into the world market, industrialists have said.

But his blessing to multiple forms of ownership and a pledge to end the free ride enjoyed for 40 years by long-ossified state firms would open the floodgates to mergers, bankruptcies, sales of shares to employees, formation of joint stockholdings and stock market listings, economists say.

Reports that China would sell off most state enterprises and only keep a small number of big firms were "groundless," said Mr. Xing. "It is impossible for China to do so, and such a method will not work and only leads to chaos," he said.

Chinese economists say such statements are little more than window-dressing, with the party well aware that its nod to multiple forms of ownership means

the private sector will boom.

Mr. Xing hastened to stress that the public ownership espoused by Mr. Jiang Friday encompassed a broader understanding of state ownership — long the bedrock of Chinese communist rule.

"Public ownership is not equal to state ownership," Mr. Xing said, adding that the public sector included not only the state but also the collective sector as well as a part of "mixed ownership" — a communist code-word for the private sector.

"That means that as long as the enterprise is owned by the people, it is still public," said one Chinese economist. Mr. Xing stressed that some sectors of the state would remain sacrosanct, despite the restructuring of ownership.

These were communications and transport, banking, finance and some major natural resources — and defence. The party's decision to restructure was due to inability of the ailing state sector to boost productive forces, Mr. Xing said.

"Practice has proved that it is wrong to think that 'the greater scale of public ownership, the better'."

## Jiang stamps authority on China's army

BEIJING (AFP) — President Jiang Zemin moved to stamp his authority on China's military machine, by promising to cut 500,000 troops by the end of the decade.

At the opening of the 15th party congress Friday, Mr. Jiang announced that one in six of the three million strong army would have to go over the next three years.

Top generals later swore loyalty, according to state media, but the party secretary general's move has caused disquiet amongst the ranks of veteran military leaders, Western diplomatic

sources said. The generals fear the People's Liberation Army (PLA) will become dominated by one man, and a civilian at that, the sources said.

"Practice has proved that Jiang Zemin has been a loyal, reliable and promising successor to the cause of building socialism with Chinese characteristics initiated by Deng Xiaoping," said Zhang Wannian, one of the four vice-presidents of the central military commission.

Another army veteran, General Zhang Zhen, 83,

who is due to retire, called on the army to "dedicate heart and soul" to the party's central committee and Mr. Jiang.

Unlike Deng, who commanded respect within the military campaigns, Mr. Jiang has never served as a soldier, and remains acutely aware of the need to win the powerful military over to his side.

But some analysts say Mr. Jiang's growing grip on the PLA has been accompanied by a loss of military influence within the Communist Party.

## Chechen leader decorated Budennovsk raiders

GROZNY (R) — Chechen President Aslan Maskhadov, in the latest of a series of affronts to Moscow, decorated rebel guerrillas Saturday who had taken part in a bloody hostage raid on the Russian town of Budennovsk in 1995.

Despite heated rhetoric between the two sides, however, Russian and Chechen negotiators agreed to draw up key political accords laying down future relations.

Russian news agencies quoted the heads of both delegations at talks in the Black Sea resort of Dagomys saying they would begin preparing a basic treaty as well as economic and defence pacts in 10 days time. Talks will continue Sunday.

Five hundred kilometres away in the Chechen capital, Grozny, Mr. Maskhadov was recalling the 1994-96 war against Russia.

"I want to sing the praises of the act of heroism performed by Shamil Basayev's battalion," Mr. Maskhadov told a rally.

Mr. Basayev became Russia's public enemy number one after the raid but is a hero to his people who believe the daring exploit in June 1995, by forcing Moscow to agree a ceasefire, stopped the Russian advance at a time Chechen forces were at a low ebb.

Altogether 115 of Mr. Basayev's fighters, who raided Budennovsk and held nearly 1,000 hostages at a hospital, were awarded Chechnya's highest order of merit, "Hero of the Nation."

More than 130 civilians were killed in six days of fighting, many from Russian fire, before Mr. Basayev released the hostages in return for a promise of peace talks from the Russian government.

"This raid changed the course of war," added Mr. Maskhadov, who led the separatist forces during the 21-month war against Russian troops. It finally ended in a peace deal in August 1996 after Mr. Maskhadov's forces had dramatically retaken Grozny.

Mr. Maskhadov, viewed as a relative moderate by the Kremlin, beat the hardline Muslim fighter, Mr. Basayev in a presidential election in January after Moscow had withdrawn its troops.

But despite an agreement to put off the painful issue of Chechnya's political status until 2001, relations have remained tense and have become particularly raw in the past week.

Mr. Basayev said Saturday he was ready to take to arms again to defend Chechnya if needed.

Chechens view their region as fully independent and believe that the peace deal simply gave Moscow five years to find a face-saving way to acknowledge the fact.

Despite having no effective control over the region, Moscow insists Chechnya is still part of the Russian federation and hopes to find ways to keep it from finally seceding.

Mr. Maskhadov and Mr. Yeltsin announced their confidence in finding a compromise a month ago, but since then mutual mudslinging has resumed over issues from kidnapping gangs and public executions in Chechnya to a lucrative oil pipeline through the region.

Both sets of negotiators, however, seemed determined to soothe tensions after Mr. Maskhadov's vice-president threatened this week to shoot Russian leaders for genocide during the war — a remark Mr. Maskhadov's spokesman refused to apologise for Friday.

Chief Russian negotiator Ivan Rybkin was quoted by Russian news agencies saying both sides agreed to harsh words were being put to the peace talks.

## 19 die in plane crash in Kabila's Congo

BUJUMBURA (R) — Nineteen people were killed when the plane carrying them to a church convention in the east of the Democratic Republic of the Congo Friday crashed into a hill, a U.N. official said Saturday.

U.N. official, Michael Phelps told Reuters by telephone from Uvira on the western shore of Lake Tanganyika that two women and an American-Israeli aid worker were among those killed when the plane slammed into a small hill in the Fizi area Friday.

"Most of the people were from the Uvira area and they were going to a Christian convention in Manembwa," he said. No one survived the crash.

Fizi, a semi-derelict centre south of Uvira, has seen intermittent clashes between the local Babembe people and President Laurent Kabila's Rwandan Tutsi allies, but it was not known if the crash was linked to

fighting. Officials at the scene could not immediately say what caused the plane to go down or give details about the aircraft, said Mr. Phelps, who heads the U.N. mission in Uvira.

An International Committee of the Red Cross team had been near the crash site and saw the aircraft go down. "Apparently the plane burnt for hours and the bodies were burnt beyond recognition," Mr. Phelps said, adding that the American-Israeli worked for the charity Food for the Hungry International.

The four-day meeting, called by Congolese churches through Ebenezer ministry international, was intended to try to find an end to ethnic conflict plaguing the area, organisers said last week.

Leaders were invited from the four main ethnic groups in the east of the former

Zaire: The Tutsi-Banyamulenge, Babembe, Nande and Bafulero. Clashes between the Tutsi-Banyamulenge and other ethnic groups, principally over land tenure and ownership, have troubled the former Zaire for decades.

Sources in Uvira, which lies across Lake Tanganyika from the Burundian capital Bujumbura, say the Babembe people resent the dominance in the administrations of north and south Kivu provinces of the Banyamulenge, allies of Kabila.

The Babembe are said to have enlisted the support of armed Hutu rebels from Burundi and soldiers from the former Rwandan and Zairean government armies. These groups are opposed to Kabila and his allies in the region, who seized power from dictator Mobutu Sese Seko in May this year after a seven-month rebellion in the old Zaire.

The Babembe are said to have enlisted the support of armed Hutu rebels from Burundi and soldiers from the former Rwandan and Zairean government armies.

## Colombian rebels say army torpedoes peace talks

BOGOTA (R) — Marxist rebels said Saturday that a major army offensive in southeast Colombia flew in the face of the government's recent call for peace talks.

Claiming that about 500 bombs had rained down on the jungle-covered area where the offensive is taking place, the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) said the air strikes openly contradicted the government's peace overtures.

In a communiqué, read by the FARC's international spokesman in Mexico, the rebel group also confirmed reports that at least one of its top commanders had been pinned down in the combat zone, an area known as Yari about 300 kilometres southeast of Bogota.

Armed forces chief, Gen. Manuel José Bonett, who told reporters Friday that the offensive had begun just two days earlier, described it as the biggest since 1990 when the army destroyed the FARC's general command headquarters in Meta province.

The FARC said the army campaign had actually been launched on Sept. 4. "Actions of this kind are incompatible with official talk of demilitarised zones to facilitate bilateral meetings between the government and insurgency," the FARC statement said. It added that the offensive had made it impossible, at least for now, for the FARC to respond to President Ernesto Samper's call, in an open letter on Aug. 28, for talks that would lay the groundwork for a full-fledged peace process in Colombia.

Mr. Samper's letter included the offer of a troop pullout from an unspecified area of the country to jump-start peace talks. The FARC's communiqué came on the heels of its own campaign of terror over the past month aimed at scuttling municipal elections set for Oct. 28. Scores of local politicians and candidates have been kidnapped or killed in the rebel offensive, prompting hundreds of candidates for mayor and local town councils to resign out of fear.

NCA analyst, Kylie Miller who prepared the report, according to the newspaper.

The report called for a national intelligence project to investigate paedophiles' use of the Internet and for more police, training and technological resources to monitor computer pornography, the newspaper said.

An official report last month in Australia's most populous state, New South Wales (NSW) found paedophilia was a serious problem, and said police and courts had failed to provide adequate protection for children.

## Fighting in Brazzaville as premier heads for Libreville peace summit

KINSHASA (AFP) — Heavy weapons fire erupted Sunday in Brazzaville as Congolese Prime Minister Bernard Kokoishi left for Libreville where nine African heads of state are gathering for a peace summit.

"There's shooting just about everywhere," said an independent source reached by telephone in the Congolese capital from Kinshasa.

He said there was firing in the city centre and near the Maya-Maya airport, which is under the control of forces backing President Pascal Lissouba, as well as in northern parts of the city controlled by Mr. Lissouba's rival and predecessor, Denis Sassou Nguesso.

Two people were killed Sunday morning by a shell that fell in the Makele-Kele

district in the south of the capital, the source said.

Mr. Kokoishi is to represent Mr. Lissouba at Sunday's summit, to be hosted by Gabonese President Omar Bongo, who has been spearheading international efforts to end the months-old crisis in Congo, where at least 4,000 people have been killed.

Mr. Sassou Nguesso's Radio Liberte questioned the usefulness of the summit in view of Mr. Lissouba's absence.

Mr. Lissouba had been urged not to attend by the youth wing of the Pan-African Union for Democratic Socialism, whose spokesman said on government radio that "the journey to Libreville is inconvenient at this moment in time."

Of the heads of state invit-

## Australia has network of 5,000 paedophiles

MELBOURNE (R) — The Sunday Age newspaper said Sunday that a national crime report had identified a loose network of 5,000 paedophiles across Australia.

The Melbourne newspaper said the National Crime Authority (NCA) report titled Operation Bodega found 30,000 girls and 11,000 boys were sexually abused each year.

A spokesman for Australia's Justice Minister Daryl Williams confirmed the report's existence but said it was still in a preliminary stage.

"A national assessment on paedophiles is being con-

ducted by the National Crime Authority, but the final assessment is not complete," the spokesman told Reuters.

It said Australian paedophiles were trafficking in pornography and increasingly using the Internet to import and exchange information on minors. The report detailed Internet bulletin board sites used by paedophiles and said Australian paedophiles were linked to overseas paedophile groups.

"Paedophile activity and the sexual abuse of children is a serious problem and largely concealed," said

Taiwanese mogul paints picture of Chinese confederation

TAIPEI (R) — Taiwan's richest man, a former military leader, painted a picture of a Chinese confederation Sunday, saying it would be a "natural" development of the world's most populous nation.

Struggling to win support for his vision of a "New China" that would encompass all of the world's Chinese, Ma Ying-jeou, 61, said the confederation would be a "natural" development of the world's most populous nation.

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## Taiwanese mogul paints picture of Chinese confederation

TAIPEI (AFP) — A top Taiwanese industrialist called for the establishment of a Chinese confederation composed of Taiwan, China and Hong Kong to bury the bitter feud between Beijing and Taipei, a news report said Sunday.

Formosa Plastics Group chairman Y.C. Wang made the appeal one year after Taiwan's nationalist government altered its investment policy towards China and told local businessmen to put their money elsewhere.

Mr. Wang told the Taiwan Daily News Saturday that Taiwan and China are like brothers from the same family who are organising their own families.

He said the vast differences between the two sides in all aspects made their immediate integration impossible.

In the article titled "Formation of Confederation Is a Way Out of the Strained Ties Between Taiwan and China," Mr. Wang emphasised that people from the two sides of the straits were all Chinese and their governments agree there is only one China.

The nationalist government which ruled the island after its troops were defeated by the Chinese Communist forces in 1949 said it also wanted to reunite with mainland China but not on Beijing's terms.

Taiwan's leaders have rejected the "one country, two systems" mechanism Beijing now uses to rule Hong Kong for 50 years.

Mr. Wang said the compromise proposal — setting up a confederation grouping Taiwan, Hong Kong and mainland China — would keep their cultural links while allowing them to cooperate and compete peacefully into the next century.

"All the mistrusts today would accordingly be eliminated ... and the great dream of the Chinese epoch could be fulfilled," Mr. Wang said.

Taiwanese President Lee Teng-hui, apparently irked by Beijing's sustained efforts to squeeze the island's international space, asked government authorities last year to make a careful review of the island's investment policy vis-a-vis rival China.

The cross-strait ties which improved in the late 1980s plunged to new low after Mr. Lee paid a landmark visit to the United States in mid-1995.

The U.S. trip, which Beijing alleged was part of Mr. Lee's plans to formally split Taiwan from the motherland, led to China's conducting six rounds of war games and missile tests near Taiwan.

In line with Taipei's tightened control over investment in China, Formosa Plastics, Taiwan's largest manufacturing company, scrapped \$3 billion thermal power plant project in Zhangzhou city in the southeastern Chinese province of Fujian.

Food industry giant President Enterprises Group followed suit and cancelled a 100 million dollar project in the central Chinese city of Wuhan.

Other local businesses however have ignored Mr. Lee's appeal intended to prevent Taiwan from becoming an economic hostage to China in case of conflict.

Taiwanese enterprises as a whole pumped \$772 million into China for the first seven months of this year, down only 1.9 per cent from a year ago.

Taiwan's official statistics indicated the island had invested 11,000 projects in China worth more than \$7 billion since Beijing opened its doors to foreign investments in the 1980's.

Chinese tallies, however, showed 35,000 Taiwanese businesses in China pulling in a combined interest of \$16.6 billion.



Taiwanese firemen battle with the blaze caused by a gas explosion that killed four people and injured 24 others in the southern city of Kaohsiung. Doctors said the death toll might rise since a number of the injured were badly burnt. Police said the explosion happened when the state-run Chinese Petroleum Corp. was replacing a pipeline (Reuters photo)

## Taiwan orders probe into gas blast

TAIPEI (R) — Authorities Sunday ordered a speedy probe into the cause of one of Taiwan's worst gas explosions, which killed four people and injured dozens.

An underground gas pipeline owned by state oil monopoly Chinese Petroleum in the southern city of Kaohsiung exploded and burst into flames Saturday.

"Premier Vincent Siew demanded a speedy investigation into the cause of the blast and to find out who was to blame in the accident," a prosecutor told state television in Kaohsiung.

On Sunday, five of the 24 injured were in critical condition. The casualties included workers, local residents and firefighters.

Fierce flames lasted for more than 12 hours until all the leaked gas burned, police said. The fire destroyed

at least 20 buildings and 90 vehicles, and killed three people on the spot.

"One more person died in the hospital earlier Sunday, bringing the death toll to four," a physician at the Kaohsiung Medical College Hospital told Reuters by telephone.

"Conditions of five others who had more than 90 per cent of their bodies burnt are very critical," he added.

Physicians said they expected the death toll to rise because several people were seriously burnt.

A statement by the Economics Ministry, which oversees state enterprises, said the explosion occurred after workers accidentally broke the liquefied petroleum gas pipeline while trying to move it to another place.

Several firemen told the

local United Daily News that two motorcyclists ignored police warnings and broke into the area, which police had sealed off after the leak occurred. They said sparks from the motorcycle engines ignited the gas, triggering the explosion.

Prosecutors said they would investigate the case. Chinese Petroleum Chairman Lee Shu-Jen Sunday apologised for the misap and said his company would do all it could to help the injured and the families of the victims.

Chinese petroleum has had several gas explosions, fires and oil leaks on land and offshore since 1996, costing the company millions of dollars in compensation and forcing its president to resign.

## Poll: Queen harmed by Diana's death Blair reacts to royal family funding reports

LONDON (R) — Princess Diana's death has raised calls for Queen Elizabeth to step down from the throne, with 70 per cent of Britons in a new opinion poll saying she is out of touch with her people.

In the Nop poll for the Sunday Times newspaper, 42 per cent said the queen should end her reign now and 30 per cent said she should step down in three years time when she is 75.

Only 31 per cent of those polled said heir to the throne, Prince Charles, Diana's former husband, should succeed his mother, while 60 per cent wanted 15-year-old Prince William, their eldest son, to become the next king.

The royal family, and the queen in particular, came under severe public criticism in the week after Diana's death in a car crash in Paris for locking themselves away from public view at their Balmoral estate in Scotland.

This was widely interpreted as callous aloofness and a disregard for the torrent of grief that swept the nation.

The royals also suffered a damaging attack from Diana's brother, Earl Spencer, at her funeral when he said she did not need royal titles "to continue to generate her particular brand of magic."

This was seen as a bitter reference to the fact that Diana lost the title "Her royal highness" when she and Prince Charles divorced last year.

Fifty-four per cent in the poll said they thought it was wrong to have stripped Diana of the title. Thirty per cent said their support for the British monarchy had

declined following Diana's death.

A poll in the Sun tabloid newspaper last week said 73 per cent of those surveyed still supported the royal family, although 39 per cent said they felt less favourable towards it since Diana died.

Meanwhile, shops in Britain sold out of Elton John's tribute song for Princess Diana, "Candle in the wind", Saturday just hours after it went on sale.

Music industry sources expect the singer's reworked version of his 1970s tribute to Marilyn Monroe, which he sang at the Princess of Wales' funeral in London last Saturday, to raise £10 million for her memorial fund.

A government committee is studying ideas for a permanent tribute for Diana, who died in a high-speed car crash in Paris two weeks ago.

British record store managers said the record is the

fastest-selling they can remember and expect it to hit the top of the charts and stay there possibly until Christmas.

Some 250,000 copies had been produced for Saturday's launch, but a million more are being readied for sale next week.

A spokeswoman for the Virgin Megastore in London said all the 1,680 copies of that it had received had gone within hours.

A spokesman for the HMV store in Manchester, northern England, said everything had gone. "It was really busy, very big queues," he said.

Some stores tried to limit customers to just a few copies each, but others imposed no limits and some customers left stores with scores of the single.

Britain's Labour government has promised to forego tax on sales of the song so that all the proceeds will go to the fund.

## Afghan Taleban forced to retreat, bringing relief to Mazar-e-Sharif

KABUL (AP) — Forces of the Taleban religious army retreated from the opposition stronghold of Mazar-e-Sharif after five days of fighting and looting that left the city battered, the opposition and aid workers said Saturday.

Shops opened their doors and people returned to the streets of the city, the largest in northern Afghanistan and the headquarters of an opposition alliance fighting the Taleban. Power was restored for the first time in four days, residents said.

"Today is quiet and the city is peaceful," Younis Qanuni, a senior leader of the alliance, said by telephone. "The rockets are too far away and the front line is more distant."

The Taleban, which control the southern two-thirds of Afghanistan and Kabul, captured the airport and the outskirts of the city in fierce fighting Tuesday, but were gradually driven back.

The fall of the city would have delivered most of the country to the Taleban, which have imposed a strict brand of Islam that has halted endemic corruption in many regions but has barred most women from working and deprived girls of even basic education.

Accounts by the opposition and aid workers put the front line no closer than 30 kilometres from the city. Saturday was the first day shelling could not be heard inside Mazar-e-Sharif.

But Amir Khan Muttaqi, a Taleban spokesman, said Saturday that fighting was still near the airport, about 15 kilometres from the city, and that no change had occurred in the front.

In a surprising twist, the warlord who once ruled Mazar-e-Sharif returned from exile, making his first appearance in the city Saturday. He visited a famous Muslim shrine, where people were seen throwing money at him in a traditional gesture of celebration.

Gen. Rashid Dostum was ousted by one of his lieutenants in May, opening the way for the Taleban to enter the city. They were driven out just two days later in a retreat that cost them hundreds of men, but Gen. Dostum chose to remain abroad in Turkey.

As the city's strongman, Gen. Dostum had gained popularity for bringing stability to Mazar-e-Sharif, which prospered for years while the rest of Afghanistan was torn apart by fighting. That stability

contrasted with the looting that went on last week by renegade soldiers who seized on the chaos to ransack homes and aid offices, carrying off computers, phones and furniture.

In Kabul, opposition forces fired a rocket into a field near the airport, killing a 10-year-old girl and wounding at least two women.

The explosion threw up dirt and shattered windows of mud huts. Ambulances raced through the dirt roads of the neighbourhood, where only a day earlier a rocket killed another person.

Meanwhile, Taleban Saturday issued a harsh warning to neighbouring Tajikistan, accusing it of allowing attacking opposition jets to fly from the Tajik bases.

Threatening "dangerous consequences" for their Central Asian neighbour, the Taleban also demanded the return of jets reportedly evacuated from embattled northern Afghanistan to a supply base in southern Tajikistan.

"We seriously warn the Dushanbe government to stop playing with the fire kindled in Afghanistan by Iranians and Russians," an official statement said. The statement signalled a

major downturn in relations with Tajikistan, which along with Russia, France, Iran and India is accused of backing the anti-Taleban alliance in Afghanistan which includes ethnic Tajiks.

"To play with this fire will have dangerous consequences for which the Dushanbe rulers will be responsible," the hardline Muslim militia statement said.

However it gave no details on what consequences, if any, the Tajikistan government — which strongly denies the charges — is facing.

The Taleban claim the anti-Taleban alliance has been given the use of an air base in Kolyab, southern Tajikistan, to help supply their northern Afghan fighters.

Senior officials within the puritanical and ethnic-Pash-tun militia say the evidence comes from opposition pilots who defected to airbases in the Taleban-held two-thirds of Afghanistan when they were told to evacuate.

"According to the accounts of three defecting pilots, five other planes went to Kolyab and are active in bombing the positions of the Islamic army since," the statement alleged.

## Norway premier predicts election win despite polls

OSLO (R) — Prime Minister Thorbjørn Jagland predicted Saturday his Labour Party would keep power in Monday's election despite unfavourable polls after a campaign focused on how far to save or spend Norway's vast oil wealth. "I believe in victory," Mr. Jagland told about 500 supporters in Oslo as parties ended campaigning with a blitz of rallies before a vote in which the opposition far-right progress party is likely to make the biggest gains.

The latest opinion polls showed support for Labour, in power for 10 of the past 11 years, stuck just below 36.9 per cent, the amount it won in 1993 at the last vote and the minimum Mr. Jagland says the government needs to stay on.

A survey for Norway's TV2 television put Labour on 35.7 per cent, while public NRK Television showed it on 34.0 per cent. Labour would still be the biggest party in parliament with more than double the percentage of any challenger.

"We are prepared to stay only if we get renewed confidence," Mr. Jagland said, ending a campaign that critics say appealed more to voters' wallets than to their hearts or

minds.

Even so, analysts say in-fighting among opposition parties may well propel the minority Labour government back to power, even if it falls short of its 36.9 per cent target and briefly stands down.

"With no stable coalition I think the most likely is that the Labour Party will be invited to continue with a minority government like we have today," said Frank Aarebrot, a political scientist at the University of Bergen.

Mr. Jagland said Labour's policies were best to safeguard a welfare state for both young and old, rejecting Progress Party charges that the policy of setting aside some of Norway's North Sea oil revenues for the future was bad for the elderly.

"Labour only cares about today's generations. We say 'no'. Let's use some of the money to guarantee those who built up this country a worthy old age," said Progress Party leader Carl I. Hagen.

Mr. Hagen's party is likely to get around 15 per cent of the vote, up from 6.3 per cent in 1993.

## PRIZES FOR YOUNG

### JORDANIAN SCIENTISTS

*"Trying Is Winning"*

Working toward enhancing scientific manpower in Jordan, prizes for young scientists are now granted for Jordanians by the Third World Academy of Sciences (TWAS) in collaboration with the Royal Scientific Society (RSS). Submission for these prizes is open till July 1998.

The prize is awarded every year rotating in one of four fields of pure science namely, **Biology, Chemistry, Mathematics, and Physics.**

Young Jordanian scientists are now invited to apply for the **TWAS PRIZE** which amounts to **\$2,000.**

So, if you are a Jordanian, resident in Jordan, and of age not exceeding 40 years, we will be glad to receive your contribution to any of the four fields specified. We are ready to provide you with any additional information about the rules and mechanism of submission.

Interested applicants are kindly requested to contact **Mrs. Majd Khayyat Talhouni** at the following address:

**The TWAS Unit  
Royal Scientific Society  
P.O.Box-1438  
Amman- Jordan  
Fax : 844806  
Tel. : 844701  
Telex: 21276 RAMAH JO**



## Jordan Times

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## Way to succeed

AFTER ALL is said and done about the visit of U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright to several Middle Eastern capitals in a bid to revive the stalled peace process, the central issue remains that of whether Israel, under Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, should be allowed to get away with its plan to delay the Oslo accords under one pretext or another. The widow of the late Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin may have posed the ultimate question when she asked whether Netanyahu's policies were in the same league as those of the forces who assassinated her husband, for no other reason than negotiating and supporting the Oslo agreements. This is the root of the crisis that has managed to derail the peace effort.

Although Netanyahu has publicly committed himself to keeping the agreements with the Palestinians, he could argue, as he in fact did on a number of occasions, that he was elected mainly to amend drastically those accords or even deal them a deadly blow.

Throughout his 15 months in office Netanyahu has worked to bury the accords because they envisaged the handover by Israel to the Palestinians of the bulk of the territory of the West Bank and Gaza before a final settlement was agreed on "final status" issues. Thus, the all important dispute over the "land" should have been settled ahead of Jerusalem, refugees, borders and Jewish settlements. Indeed, if Oslo had been implemented on schedule and honestly, final status negotiations would have involved a viable Palestinian entity and Israel. In possession of their homeland and state-to-be, the Palestinians would have been in a strong position to achieve reasonable compromises on the "final status" issues. But today the Palestinians are in a very weak position because they possess only 60 per cent of Gaza and three per cent of the West Bank. Netanyahu has made it abundantly clear he is not prepared to compromise on any of the "final status" issues. He has destroyed the unequal partnership between the Palestinian National Authority and Israel and replaced it with Israeli dictates.

By burying the Oslo accords the Israeli prime minister has made of the "land" another, in fact the central, final status issue and has doomed to failure negotiations between the Palestinians and Israel. This is where the U.S. has to intervene if the peace process is to be saved from total collapse. The issue for President Clinton and Secretary of State Albright is whether to allow the Israeli government to get away with what it wants and leave us in ruins after that.

We took heart from what we heard from Albright last night at her joint press conference with His Majesty King Hussein, that she impressed upon the Israeli prime minister the need not to undertake unilateral acts that undermine the peace process. But, as she herself pointed out, greater steps need to be taken before we can hope for real success. Much work lies ahead, and we hope the secretary of state's just-ended mission in the region will be a new beginning for that major task.

## ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

THE ISRAELI government has rejected U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright's suggestion to freeze the Jewish settlement programmes in the occupied Palestinian lands in exchange for stopping violence, said Mahmoud Rimawi, a writer for Al Ra'i. Although Ms. Albright was very careful in wording her statements and never contemplated the idea of condemning the settlements, Benjamin Netanyahu was prompt to reject the notion, thus reaffirming Israel's determination to pursue work on the Jabal Abu Ghneim's settlement which has been the root cause for the violence in the occupied Palestinian lands for the last few months, said the writer. The U.S. secretary has come to the region, like all other U.S. officials who have visited the Middle East over the past four years, carrying messages of love and support for Israel and its programmes and a blessings of its continued occupation of Arab territories, the writer pointed out. He said the Arabs wished that the U.S. secretary would project Washington as a fair peace broker and sponsor of the peace process, but it turned out that she showed her country only as an accomplice to Israel's continued occupation of Arab lands.

A WRITER for Al Dustour said that the Western nations which have been donating funds to UNRWA to enable it to finance its services to the Palestinian refugees seem to be determined to wreck the agency now for political reasons. Yasser Zaareh said that the refugee camps and the agency's services stand out as a symbol for the continuation of the Palestinian problem which the Western nations seem determined to liquidate. The writer criticised UNRWA's Commissioner General Peter Hansen for demanding that the wealthy oil-producing Arab states replace the Western donor nations in providing the funds to UNRWA, saying that the refugees problem was created through a U.N. resolution on the creation of Israel that caused the displacement of the Palestinian people. By liquidating the Palestinian refugee problem, he said, countries that support Israel hope to make the world community forget about the Palestine problem and shift the burden for their survival on the Arab countries, including those that have been hosting the refugees for five decades.

## Economic Review

By Dr. Yusuf Mansur

## 'Greater participation of women in the economy is a necessity'

FOR EVERY 105 women with education beyond high school in Jordan there are 100 men; in other words, when it comes to higher education, women are the more endowed group. In 1990, women made up 49 per cent of the population of Jordan, but their representation in the labour force was only 13.4 per cent. (This is not unique to Jordan. Arab states have the lowest labour market participation rates for women in the world). The unemployment rate for Jordanian women (34.2 per cent) in 1990 was more than double that for men (14 per cent) in the same year. The wages of Jordanian men were on average 20 per cent higher than the wages of women in 1990. The gap could have been larger had it not been for Jordan's large public sector which employs 75 per cent of the nation's employees, 54 per cent of the woman workforce, and, at least legally, does not discriminate between women and men when it comes to wages.

One area where women are overrepresented is the services sector — including government, social and private services — where in 1990, they made up 80 per cent of the total labour force employed in this sector. Education and health are also big employers of women, while top management positions go to men — only 1.1 per cent of managers are women. Chaurvinism and having to do housework after outside-the-home work take their toll on women in this regard.

It seems that women are not being given a fair chance. But the cause of the economic disparities in Jordan, as elsewhere, must lie with men because after the industrial revolution (and having absconded from several professions traditionally held by women, such as hairdressing, sewing, cooking, making fruit preserves and jams, etc.) they proceeded to tell women which professions they should or should not take.

Furthermore, there are many examples of how men concocted methods and schemes to maintain control over women. In China, in the old days, a horrid custom of foot

binding was introduced to ensure that women's feet become incapable of allowing them to run away or walk long distances, and women were told that such a practice was aimed at beautifying their feet by making them small. In Japan, women fared better, but a device was invented nevertheless to incapacitate their stride and their ability to run away. High heels were worn to, again, "enhance their beauty." And again the women's means of escape were destroyed. In Europe, a man would open the door for his female companion, not out of some great code of chivalry, as people thought, but to ensure that she would not run away if the man were to go first in the building. Throughout history, tyrants did not like to let go of their control; in the case of men, they devised mechanisms that later became acceptable, even highly praised social norms.

How did men maintain this dominance? Muscle power, which they possessed in abundance relative to women, was basically the way, but its significance has decreased as machine replaced man as a more efficient mode of production.

Women, on the other hand, continue to suffer because the rational thing for men, if they want to keep their control over women, is not to let go of their leadership and dominance. However, more and more men are having to forego this dominance, especially in advanced societies, as economic activities become directed at services and not manufacturing. Technology, which stole many of the productive roles of women, is giving back to women what was stolen: economic independence.

Women's talent must come to play in Jordan if the economy is to move confidently into the next century. The labour market needs a workforce that has been trained in the services sector; Jordanian women have a comparative advantage. Greater participation of women in the economy is not an ethical requirement but an economic necessity which Jordan cannot afford to forego.

## Scotland: the 'Quebec syndrome'?

By Gwynne Dyer

YES, IT is high time for Scotland to have a parliament of its own, after 290 years of being governed from London. Yes, it would do little harm if this turned out to be the first step on the road to Scottish independence from Britain, as the leaders of the Scottish National Party (SNP) confidently predict. But they are probably being over-confident — and that is the problem.

The "yes, yes" vote in Scotland last Thursday (yes to a separate Scottish parliament in Edinburgh, yes to giving it fund-raising powers) was a convincing demonstration of Scotland's will to be different. Three-quarters of the voters backed the new parliament, and almost two-thirds of them were even willing to take the risk that it might raise their taxes.

In both the "yes" and the "no" camps, many suspected that this might indeed be Scotland's first step out of the United Kingdom. Tam Dalyell, a Labour MP who rebelled against his party's pro-devolution policy, warned that the vote was "the beginning of a motorway without exit to a separate Scottish state." SNP leader Alex Salmond agreed. "We will shortly begin work on our manifesto (for the 1999 election that will choose the first Scottish parliament), but I can say right now that its centrepiece will be the pursuit of an independent Scotland. I have no doubt that we will achieve that aim within my own lifetime."

Well, so what? Scotland, with just over 5 million people, falls into the same population bracket as other northern European nations that are already independent: Denmark, Norway and Finland.

It is more heavily industrialised than any of its counterparts (and much of the industry is modern, high-tech manufacturing for the international market, not its traditional coal, steel and ship-building). It would almost automatically become a member of the European Union. And it has North Sea oil. So if independence is what the Scots truly want, by all means let them have it. The problem is that not enough Scots do truly want it. Even in the Margaret Thatcher era,

when they felt alienated and oppressed by a Conservative government in London that few people in Scotland had voted for (only about a fifth of Scots vote Conservative), the SNP never repeated its 1974 feat of winning almost a third of the Scottish vote.

Very well, then, the Scots do not want independence. What is the problem with that? If they want to stay in Britain, nobody is going to push them out. It is at this point in the argument, however, that the spectre of Quebec beavers above the horizon.

*"...hope to see an independent Scotland in 2007 (the 300th anniversary of Scotland's union with England) is unlikely to be realised, but the vision of independence as a nostrum for all ills may come to eclipse more modest and pragmatic policy debates."*

For thirty years now, Quebec's French-speaking majority has besetted perpetually on the brink of separating from the rest of Canada, without ever getting the nerve up to actually do it. Meanwhile, the province's politics has been permanently fixated on that single question, while its economy has gone down the drain.

In 1967, the year of the "Montreal Expo" world's fair, Montreal was still Canada's greatest city; not just Quebec's metropolis, but the whole country's. It was not only higher than the inland city of Toronto, but more expensive, as befits a metropolis: average house prices were a quarter higher in Montreal.

Thirty years of separatist obsessions later, the Toronto metropolitan region has at least a million more people than its Montreal equivalent, and house prices in Toronto are twice as big as in Montreal. Within the next two decades, Montreal may even fall behind Vancouver, to become Canada's third-largest city.

The main cause of this blight is the perpetual political uncertainty in which Quebec lives. And that derives from the fact that though most voters do not want independence, they are compelled to debate it end-

lessly. Just like the new Scotland.

In the 1960s in Quebec, the century-old party confrontation between Conservatives and Liberals, "blues" and "reds", crumbled. The Liberals survived, but the newly formed, separatist Parti Quebecois emerged as their only serious rival.

Both of Quebec's traditional parties had their nationalist wings, but their political arguments ranged over a wide variety of issues. In post-60s Quebec, however, there was only one real topic of debate because of the very structure of politics.

There was also only one alternative to the party in power. Unless the 7 million Quebecois wanted to live under Liberal governments forever, they had to elect the separatists once in a while. Merely this process of legitimate democratic rotation of power, in a system where one of the only two serious parties has a nationalist bee in its bonnet, has condemned Quebec to endless sterile debate about independence amidst relative economic decline.

Is Scotland doomed to the same fate? The party structure is similar: Labour's only credible rival in Scotland is the SNP. If Scots do not wish to live in a one-party state with perpetual Labour governments, they will

have to elect the SNP eventually. Even before they do, the SNP's status as official opposition will focus debate endlessly on Scotland's alleged sufferings within Britain. Alex Salmond's hope to see an independent Scotland in 2007 (the 300th anniversary of Scotland's union with England) is unlikely to be realised, but the vision of independence as a nostrum for all ills may come to eclipse more modest and pragmatic policy debates.

Does that mean Scotland is also condemned to slow economic decline? Perhaps not, for the new Scottish politics, though similarly obsessed with nationalist issues, probably will not become nasty enough to make large numbers of people leave.

Scots are worldly people: it was Scottish engineers, soldiers and administrators who turned the English empire into that far more sophisticated thing, the British Empire. So most Scottish nationalists avoid the ethnic exclusivism that disfigures Quebec nationalism and cripples Quebec's economy.

At worst, Scotland may now drift off into the northern mists, arguing inconclusively about independence while the best and the brightest jump ship. At the least, Scottish political debate will be dominated for a generation by nationalist resentments that mean little to the rest of the world, or even to many Scots.

But at best, the vote in Scotland will be the first step towards a federal Britain where all the regions have more freedom to be themselves. That is certainly what Britain's new Labour government intends, but it will be quite a feat if it pulls it off.

## Human Rights File

## The way out of the stand-off on elections

By Waleed M. Sadi

THERE IS a civil way of ending the stand-off between the government and the opposition parties which have professed determination to boycott the next parliamentary elections unless their "conditions" are met. In the absence of a judicial review of the issues that divide the two sides, the parties may seek guidance from the international jurisprudence on the subject of fair and free elections.

The Committee on Human Rights which monitors the application of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and interprets its provisions has adopted its "general comment" on Article 25 of the covenant on elections and how they may be conducted in accordance with it. It goes without saying that the pronouncements of the committee are binding on Jordan which signed and ratified the ICCPR in the late seventies.

I will reproduce the salient parts of the general comment of the committee on Article 25, with as little comment as possible.

To begin within, the said article recognises and protects the right of every citizen to take part in the conduct of public affairs, the right to vote and to be elected and the right to have access to public service.

No distinctions are permitted between citizens in the enjoyment of these rights on the grounds of race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status. Distinctions between those who are entitled to citizenship by birth and those who acquire it by naturalisation may raise questions of compatibility with the covenant.

Paragraph eleven of the committee's ruling could be open for conjecture where it states that "states must take effective measures to ensure that all persons entitled to vote are able to exercise that right." It may be rightly asked in this context whether the opposition parties' call for the boycott of the upcoming elections contravenes this particular edict.

The call for boycott by large and powerful parties contains a certain pressure effect on voters and may indeed influence electors to refrain from going to the polls on election day in deference to the stance of these parties regarding elections.

Others may argue that the avowed declaration to boycott elections cannot be construed as any form of duress as to call for a governmental intervention. I suppose the determination of this issue depends in the final analysis on the exact formulation adopted by the opposition parties to talk potential voters into not casting their votes.

It is stated in Paragraph 12 of the ruling of the committee on the conduct of elections that freedom of expression, assembly

and association are essential conditions for the effective exercise of the right to vote. Is the call for a national boycott of elections, though, an exercise of the freedom of expression? Again the answer could be both yes and no, depending on the overall tone of the boycott call.

It is unfortunate that the committee in question did not debate the boycott issue per se. It would be interesting to raise this issue before the committee at a later stage through direct intervention of Jordan. The Jordanian Missions to the U.N. in New York or Geneva can address this inquiry to the committee when it convenes again in October of this year.

Equally vexing is the issue of supervising elections. As per Paragraph 20 of the committee's interpretation of Article 25 on elections, an independent electoral authority should be established to supervise the electoral process. Access to the judiciary is a complementary path, should a controversy or conflict arise. What constitutes an independent authority, though, remains to be spelled out. It would be safe, however, to conclude that any such body must not belong to either the judicial or the executive branches.

Paragraph 21 makes interesting reading where it stipulates that "the principle of one-person, one-vote must apply and, within the framework of each state's electoral system, the vote of one elector should be equal to the vote of the other." The ruling goes on to state that "the drawing of electoral boundaries and the method of allocating votes should not distort the distribution of voters or discriminate against any group and should not exclude or restrict unreasonably the right of citizen to choose their representatives freely."

Implicit in this construction of the one-man, one-vote criterion is the principle of proportional representation which must be religiously protected in order to assure equal voting powers. But the prohibition against discrimination against any group (ethnic, religious, etc.) makes one wonder what really is the intent of the committee when it calls for proportional representation on the basis of the one-man, one-vote criterion and, in the same breath, prohibits "discrimination against any group."

Of course the government can submit a request for additional clarification from the committee on the points where there is persistent disagreement. As I mentioned earlier, this would be the "civil" way to go about resolving the stand-off between government and the opposition. Better still, the High Court of Justice can be petitioned to make such rulings, but any judgement by our domestic high court must be rendered in conformity with the jurisprudence of the international body that was established to interpret the covenant in question.

## LETTERS

## Kind words deserved

To the Editor:

I WOULD like to extend my humble thanks to the Jordan Times, and the media in general, for the sympathetic treatment of the tragic death of Princess Diana.

On Sept. 9, 1992, the princess became colonel-in-chief of the then newly formed Princess of Wales' Royal Regiment, an amalgamation which included my regiment, the Royal Sussex Regiment, which was stationed in Agaba during hostilities with Israel from 1948 to 1950.

As colonel-in-chief she made several visits to the regiment, to Northern Ireland and elsewhere. She was patron

of many of the expeditions, such as in Northern Kenya and the London to Mexico Rally, which raised a large sum for the Great Ormond Street Hospital for sick children. There is sadness in the deaths of both her and Imam Fayed, for he brought a hint of happiness into her burdensome life which she had so committed to good causes.

On behalf of the Princess of Wales' Royal Regiment, I thank you again for the kind words expressed on their death.

Paul Salim Agaba

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# "Let there be no doubt, the United States will continue to do all it can to promote peace between Israelis and Palestinians and throughout the Middle East. We will do so because progress towards peace serves our vital interests, helps protect our friends, reflects our values and because it is right."

Excerpts from Remarks by U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine K. Albright  
National Press Club, Washington, D.C., August 6, 1997.

Our convictions are clear. Terrorism is evil. It can never be justified. It is the instrument of cowards. It kills the innocent not by accident, but by design. And its design in the Middle East is to murder the peace process by shredding security and destroying the hope for peace.

**We must respond to those who have declared war on peace by waging war on terror,**

understanding that forging peace and fighting terrorism are not separate struggles, but rather two halves of the same struggle. We cannot succeed in one if we do not prevail in both. The path ahead is difficult, but so was the journey already made.

The popular desire for peace is durable, resilient and strong. This is what extremists and terrorists fear most. And this is why, despite the bombing this past week, and despite threats of further violence, the process of peacemaking has survived and will continue to survive.

**The question today is not whether the Israelis and Palestinians will reach a mutually acceptable agreement, but when.**

This question of time is an important one. With our help, Israelis and Palestinians can move steadily towards a better future or they can remain bogged down in mutual suspicion and recriminations. The longer decisions are postponed, the more conflict and suffering will ensue.

Let me be clear. There is no moral equivalency between suicide bombers and bulldozers, between killing innocent people and building houses. It is simply not possible to address political issues seriously in a climate of intimidation and terror.

But the principle of refraining from unhelpful unilateral acts is central to maintaining mutual confidence. Especially as we look ahead to permanent status negotiations, it is essential that

the parties think through how their actions will affect the environment for those negotiations.

Both Israeli and Palestinian leaders have been consistent in stating their commitment to peace. But the success of the negotiating process requires more. They must reaffirm their commitment to partnership and to working together to solve problems.

They must reiterate their understanding that the future of their two peoples is not a zero-sum game in which one party will win and the other will lose; or in which one will get up from the bargaining table with an advantage over the other.

**If two people are in a boat heading for the rapids, they should not be arguing about how they got there; they should be rowing together in the direction of security and shore.**

We seek a just and lasting peace achieved through direct negotiations based on U.N. Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, including the principle upon which every Arab-Israeli agreement has been built — land for peace. We believe that peace must be accompanied by real security for Israel and her Arab neighbors both from external threats and from terror.

**We believe peace must be just, lasting and comprehensive, leading to treaties based on normal relations and genuine peace between peoples, including between Israel and Syria and Israel and Lebanon, and we believe that peace must address the legitimate political rights of the Palestinian people.**

Principles, however, cannot produce agreements; the hard work of negotiation does. And the United States has tried through a variety of ways to promote that process.

At the same time, the United States is not a party to the Arab-Israeli conflict. We do not assume the same risks and responsibilities as parties struggling with the issues of political identity and physical survival.

As a consequence, we cannot, should not, and will not impose solutions. Nor can we create the political will required for Arabs and Israelis to make the tough decisions for peace. These are their decisions — not ours. But given our indispensable role and the trust and confidence we have gained, we do have a responsibility during good times and bad to work with them in the pursuit of peace. Indeed, they want us to play this role. And we will continue to do so.

To restore momentum, we have to increase confidence on both sides about where the negotiating process is leading and what the outcome of permanent status talks might be. If the parties have a clear, mutual and favorable sense of the ultimate direction of negotiation, it will be easier for them to overcome setbacks and avoid distractions along the way. This will require accelerating permanent status negotiations.

**Re-energizing the Israeli-Palestinian peace process will not happen overnight.**

It will take time. But President Clinton and I remain committed to doing everything possible to help the parties succeed. We will continue to play our role as a full partner.

In this partnership, only the parties must make the decisions, but we can support them. In this partnership, only the parties must conduct the negotiations, but we can be with them at the table. In this partnership, only the parties must determine the shape of peace, but we can work with them to facilitate, protect and broaden that peace.

No region of the world has seen greater suffering or more persistent

conflict than the Middle East. No generation has a better chance than the current one to replace the downward cycle of conflict with an upward ladder of opportunity.

As we approach the new century, there are no Cold War divisions fueling a regional rivalry. And the way to peace — once obscure — has been laid out first at Madrid, then more clearly at Oslo and in the agreements since.

For Israelis, that is the promise of a bustling economy with Pacific Rim potential. It is assurance of a common front in the fight against terror, a steady growth in regional cooperation and the ability to raise children in security and peace.

For Palestinians, it is the promise of an end to decades of strife. It is the chance, as full participants in a growing regional economy, to use their energy and skills to create a future for themselves of steadily increasing prosperity, dignity and hope.

And for all the people of the region, it is the promise, as President Clinton has said, of "building a land that is as bountiful and peaceful as it is holy," and of offering to Israelis and Palestinians alike the "quiet miracle of a normal life."

The United States cannot choose this future for Israel or for the Palestinians. That is their choice and their challenge. We do not underestimate the difficulties. We are cognizant of the dangers. But America was built on optimism and on the faith that the future can be made better than the past, not only within our own borders but within all the borders of the Earth.

**It is in that spirit, and with that faith, that we ask of ourselves and of our partners a renewed and determined effort to transform from hope to reality the elusive dream of a Middle East peace.**

## Dispute between JEPSCO and electricity employees solved

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordan Electric Power Company (JEPSCO) and the Association of Workers in Electricity Sunday signed an agreement, ending a year long dispute over workers wages.

In a statement to Jordan News Agency, Petra, following the signing, Dr. Khasawneh said the resolution of labour disputes by negotiations represents a

positive phenomenon, capable of fostering better understanding and cooperation between the various parties involved in the production process.

Dr. Khasawneh noted that the company has followed up the dispute with complete neutrality to allow the two parties to resolve their conflict by negotiations.

Under the agreement, JEPSCO agreed to grant a monthly increase of JD15 to the basic salary of classi-

fied administrative staff and workers. The increase shall take place with retroactive effect as of July 1, 1997.

Regarding staff and workers who have been classified later than July 1, the new salary increase shall apply effective immediately following the date they were classified.

The agreement stipulated that the annual increment range between JD3.5 for the lowest grade of the clas-

sified staff and JD22 for those in the special grade.

Also under the agreement, the daily wages of daily paid workers and those working under fixed term contracts will be increased by 500 fils a day as of July 1.

The agreement was signed by JEPSCO's Managing Director Izzat Jukhdar while it was signed for the association by its President Khalifa Al Mai'tah.

## UAE foreign debt put at \$10.84 billion

ABU DHABI (AFP) — The United Arab Emirates (UAE) is saddled with around \$10.84 billion in foreign debt although it is one of the world's leading oil producers, an official report showed Sunday.

Nearly \$9.8 billion, or 90 per cent of the total, are in the form of short-term debts, said the report by the Kuwait-based Inter-Arab Investment Guarantee Corporation (IAIGC), an affiliate of the 22-member Arab League.

The report, published in the official UAE daily Al-Bayan, said the debt at the end of 1996 accounted for nearly 24.8 per cent of the Gulf country's gross domestic product. Debt servicing stood at \$1.08 billion.

The UAE, a key OPEC member, does not publish figures on its debt and the report did not identify the creditors. Bankers, asking not to be named, said that most of the debts were sought to finance arms imports and a persistent budget deficit caused by a surge in public spending.

Central Bank figures showed the UAE's 1996 actual deficit soared to one of its highest levels, 17.7 billion dirhams (\$4.82 billion), despite a surge in oil export earnings.

This was due to a sharp increase in expenditure to a record 71.5 billion dirhams (\$19.48 billion).

IAIGC said the UAE's balance of payments, a key indicator of economic health, recorded a deficit of around \$262 million in 1996 but the trade balance was in a surplus of \$3.9 billion.

Direct investment stood at nearly \$135 million, up from \$120 million in 1995.

The UAE produces nearly 2.16 million barrels per day of oil under a quota agreement with the 11-nation Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC). Crude and gas sales account for more than two-thirds of its total income.

REUTERS

REUTERS

## The Business of Information

Prices as at 14/09/97 18:21

Currency	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY	CAD	FRF	ITL	ESP
US Dollar	1.7740	0.8223	1.4674	121.00	1.3917	1735.10	1.9979	5.8630	
DE Mark	0.5692	1.0000	0.8223	68.28	0.7643	977.80	1.1283	3.3672	
GB Sterling	1.0070	2.8900	1.0000	194.05	2.2365	2788.31	3.2108	9.5825	
CH Franc	0.8815	120.81	0.4236	62.42	0.9478	1181.63	136.20	4.0908	
JP Yen	0.0083	1.4855	0.5138	1.2122	1.1497	14.33	185.05	4.9281	
CA Dollar	0.7185	1.2087	0.4985	1.0739	1.15	1272.94	1.4717	4.3843	
IT Lira	0.0008	1.0218	0.3583	0.0845	1436.16	0.8016	11.51	3.4388	
NL Guilder	0.5095	98.75	0.3112	73.44	80.51	0.6962	867.54	2.9831	
FR Franc	0.1677	0.2974	0.1043	24.8002	20.27	0.2333	33.49	33.4900	

Currency	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY	CAD	FRF	ITL	ESP
US Dollar	1.7740	0.8223	1.4674	121.00	1.3917	1735.10	1.9979	5.8630	
Jordan Dinar	1.4104	0.2887	0.5317	5.1340	0.4292	5.1803	2167.28	4.7779	
Saudi Riyal	0.2686	0.1890	0.1005	0.97	0.0811	0.98	407.82	0.9032	
Bahrain Dinar	2.65	1.8806	0.9480	9.86	0.8072	8.74	4057.03	8.9844	
Qatar Dinar	0.2747	0.1948	0.10303	1.0303	0.0836	1.01	420.19	0.9308	
Kuwait Dinar	3.2862	2.3299	1.2347	12.389	11.98	12.07	5026.29	0.9308	
Emirates Dinar	0.2723	0.1930	1.0211	0.1028	0.9911	0.0829	416.44	0.9223	
Lebanese L1000	0.85	0.4636	2.4520	0.2465	2.3799	0.1990	2.4013	2.2148	
Egyptian	0.2852	0.2093	1.1071	0.1113	1.0745	0.0888	1.0842	451.51	

Currency	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY
Brent	18.34	18.49			
WTI	18.34	18.38			
Bonny	18.34	18.49			
Dubai	17.85	17.80			
UL Gas	0.00	208.00			

Currency	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY
SA Riyal	0.2686	0.1890	0.1005	0.97	0.0811
AE Dirham	0.2723	0.1930	1.0211	0.1028	0.9911
KW Dinar	3.2862	2.3299	1.2347	12.389	11.98
EH Dinar	0.2770	0.1930	1.0211	0.1028	0.9911
CY Pound	1.9015	3.3733	1.1629	2.7903	230.06

Currency	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY
US Dollar	1.7740	0.8223	1.4674	121.00	1.3917
DE Mark	0.5692	1.0000	0.8223	68.28	0.7643
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CH Franc	0.8815	120.81	0.4236	62.42	0.9478
JP Yen	0.0083	1.4855	0.5138	1.2122	1.1497
CA Dollar	0.7185	1.2087	0.4985	1.0739	1.15
IT Lira	0.0008	1.0218	0.3583	0.0845	1436.16
NL Guilder	0.5095	98.75	0.3112	73.44	80.51
FR Franc	0.1677	0.2974	0.1043	24.8002	20.27

Source: Central Bank of Jordan.

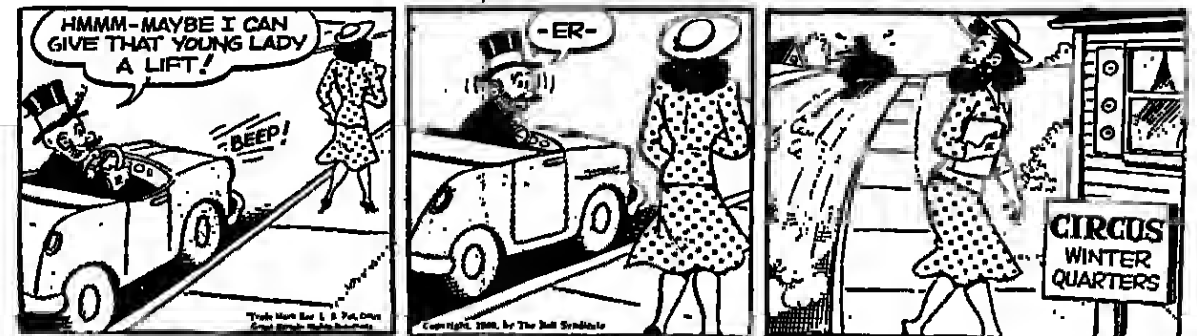
## Peanuts



## Andy Capp

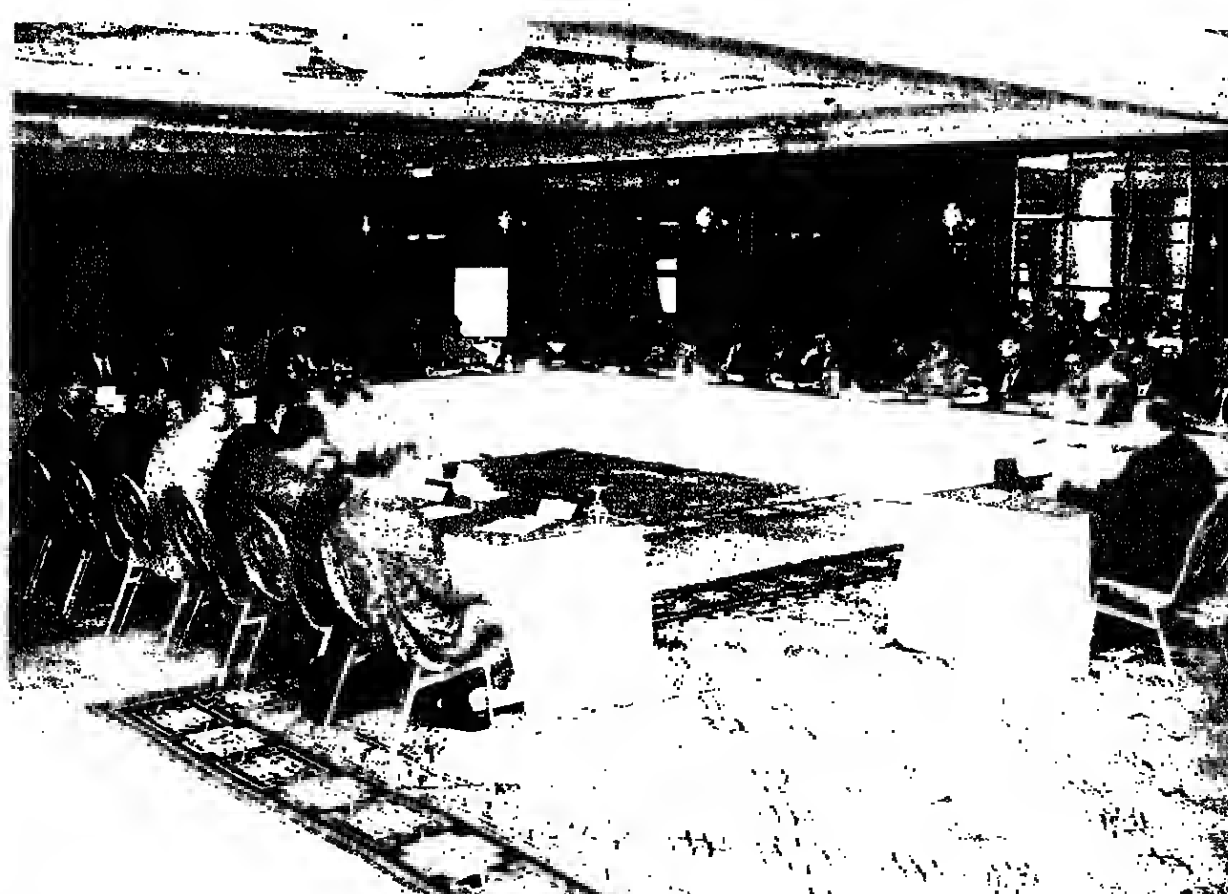


## Mutt'n' Jeff



## ARAB BANK HOLDS SEMINAR ON ASSET LIABILITY MANAGEMENT

The importance of understanding the professional asset liability approach in future banking activities



Amman ( Jordan Times ) As part of its continuous efforts to address developments in the banking industry, the Arab Bank has organized its final four-day seminar this year on Asset Liability Management at the Jordan Intercontinental Hotel.

The seminar which started on September 11th 1997, was presided over by Mr. Abdul Majeed Shoman/Chairman of the Arab Bank, together with his Deputy President / Mr. Abdel Hamid

Shoman and Dr. Farouk El-Kharouf/Director General of the Arab Bank Accountancy Division.

The seminar was held exclusively for Arab Bank regional managers in cooperation with the London-based Batt & Partners Consulting Limited, a specialized top level consulting firm which serves financial institutions world-wide. Thirty-two participants represented Arab Bank branches in Austria, Italy, Spain, Greece, Cyprus, Lebanon, Egypt, U.A.E., Qatar,

Yemen, Jordan and Palestine.

This event comes as an integral step in accomplishing a comprehensive risk management system in the Arab Bank Group.

The preparation started with the Bank's main financial centers in Singapore, New York, London, Manama and Switzerland. Other centers spanning 35 countries around the world have now joined this strategic program which the Arab Bank has adopted to face the recent challenges in the banking

industry.

Mr. Tewfik Ahmad Al-Khalil / Senior Executive Vice President ended the seminar by emphasizing the importance of understanding the professional asset liability management approach in future banking activities. He also elaborated on the Bank's commitment to provide its clients with a wider range of investment and treasury products. ■

## Business

## New Kuwaiti-Iraqi venture seeks financing

ABU DHABI (AFP) — A new Kuwaiti-Iraqi venture seeks financing for a project in the oil-rich region. The venture, which is a joint venture between a Kuwaiti company and an Iraqi company, is looking for investors to fund a project in the oil-rich region. The project is expected to be completed by the end of the year.

## HOROSCOPE FORECAST

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 1997

**LIBRA** — A new beginning is ahead of you. You are looking for a new direction in life. You are looking for a new challenge. You are looking for a new adventure. You are looking for a new way of life.

## LIBRA

— A new beginning is ahead of you. You are looking for a new direction in life. You are looking for a new challenge. You are looking for a new adventure. You are looking for a new way of life.

## SCORPIO

— A new beginning is ahead of you. You are looking for a new direction in life. You are looking for a new challenge. You are looking for a new adventure. You are looking for a new way of life.

## CAPRICORN

— A new beginning is ahead of you. You are looking for a new direction in life. You are looking for a new challenge. You are looking for a new adventure. You are looking for a new way of life.

## AQUARIUS

— A new beginning is ahead of you. You are looking for a new direction in life. You are looking for a new challenge. You are looking for a new adventure. You are looking for a new way of life.

## PISCES

— A new beginning is ahead of you. You are looking for a new direction in life. You are looking for a new challenge. You are looking for a new adventure. You are looking for a new way of life.

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## New Kuwaiti-Iranian steel venture seeks financing

KUWAIT CITY (AFP) — A newly formed Iranian-Kuwaiti steel venture is assessing offers from banks to help finance a steel mill to produce reinforcement bars for the construction industry, an official said Sunday.

United Steel Industrial Company (USIC) is considering offers from Kuwaiti and international banks to share in financing the \$58.5 million plant, a USIC official said, without saying which banks were involved.

USIC is 49 per cent owned by Ascolec, which is based in Dusseldorf, Germany, and a wholly-owned subsidiary of National Iranian Steel Company, and 51 per cent owned by private Kuwaiti investors.

The plant, which will have capacity to produce some 500,000 tonnes per year (tpy) of steel reinforcement bars, or rebars, will be funded with \$25 million of equity with the balance made up by debt financing.

The new firm received a commercial licence earlier this year.

"We will start building next month," the official, who asked not to be named, told AFP. Construction of the plant over the next 20 months will be carried out by the Austrian firm Voest Alpine Industrieanlagenbau.

The plant will mainly target the domestic market where the construction industry's demand for rebars is between 350,000 and 400,000 tpy. Other consumers in the Gulf are expected to take up the extra output.

"We already have some contracts, offtake agreements, to supply some companies in the north area of Saudi Arabia," the official said.

## Daily Beat

A review of news from the Arabic press

### Cabinet to begin debating new five-year economic development plan early next month

\*\* THE MINISTRY of Planning has decided to form 19 sectoral committees to formulate the basis of the economic plan for the next five years (1998-2001). The committees, which cover various economic sectors, will prepare the necessary study that will show the achievements and the problem faced by each sector and the means to solve them. These studies will be a preliminary step for the committees that will submit reports to the Higher Committee to prepare the economic plan. Planning Minister Rima Khalaf heads the Higher Committee which also includes a number of other ministers.

It is expected that the Council of Ministers will, early next month, begin debating the broad framework for the economic development plan; which is to first win the approval of the Ministerial Development Council. The Council has recently discussed the report presented by the Ministry of Planning.

The committees which were formed include the health, education, services and environmental sectors, in addition to others. The Council of Ministers is expected to approve the names of the members of the committees which will, each, include a representative from the private sector. These representatives will participate in formulating the requirements of the five year economic development plan.

The economic development plan that is being implemented will be completed by the end of this year with positive results expected to be achieved.

The new five year plan aims at continuing efforts to achieve more sustainable developments, financial and monetary stability and elimination of production and pricing imbalances, as well as increasing national savings and providing the suitable climate for private sector investments.

The new plan will also aim at achieving a higher level of self-sufficiency and self-reliance through narrowing the gaps in the general budget and other economic balances. Also to be targeted in the new plan are widening production base, expanding employment opportunities, developing the export sector through higher competitive capability and reducing gaps in the standard of living of the population in addition to fighting poverty and meeting the minimum requirements and basic needs for all citizens (Al Aswaq).

## S. Arabia reviewing tax to lure foreign cash

DUBAI (R) — Saudi Arabia is studying ways to attract foreign investment, including a tax revision, to help lure financing for new power and water projects, its finance minister said in remarks published Sunday.

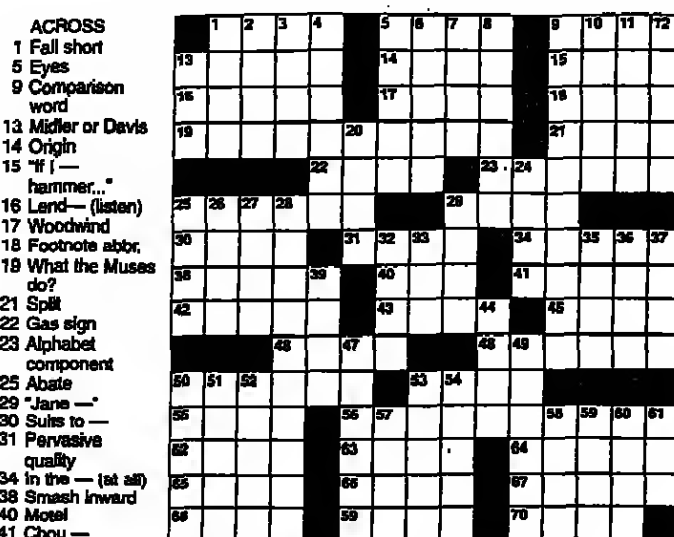
The Saudi Gazette newspaper quoted Ibrahim Abdul Aziz Al Asaf as saying a study was being prepared "to make the Saudi economy more attractive to foreign investors."

"The study provides for revision of the taxation system," it added, without giving details.

"There is a need for increasing the capacity of the power and telecommunications, and the public utility sectors," Mr. Asaf said, adding, "the private sector is expected to be the main source of the financing."

Most foreign capital in Saudi Arabia is invested in joint ventures with Saudi firms. Foreign capital can be invested without Saudi participation, but then it does not qualify for a range of incentives, including tax holidays. Saudi Arabia, the world's largest oil producer and exporter, is trying to reduce government's dominant role and diversify its economy.

## THE Daily Crossword



by Dorothy B. Martin

ACROSS  
1 Fall short  
5 Eyes  
9 Comparison word  
13 Midler or Davis  
14 Origin  
15 "I" —  
16 Land — (listen)  
17 Woodwind  
18 Footnote abbr.  
19 What the Muses do?  
21 Split  
22 Gas sign  
23 Alphabet component  
25 Abate  
29 "I am" —  
30 Suits to —  
31 Pervasive quality  
34 In the — (at an)  
38 Smash inward  
40 Metal  
41 Chou —  
42 — of Troy  
43 Encounter  
45 Set of three  
46 Swelling  
48 Warm again  
50 Chess piece  
53 Beginning with  
55 Comply  
56 Shared equally  
58 Meadows  
63 Musical James  
64 Farewell  
65 Actress Moore  
66 Hebrew tyre  
67 Steel material  
68 Hades river  
69 Armored vehicle  
70 Shade trees

DOWN  
1 Bill of fare  
2 Article  
3 Brief attempt  
4 Calm and peaceful  
5 Maine college town  
6 Organic compound  
7 Actor Donahue  
8 Conquer  
9 Remove by rubbing out  
10 Addition  
11 Take — (throw a fight)  
12 Consumerist  
13 Prohibit  
20 Nevada gambling mecca  
24 First name in mysteries  
25 Strike with force  
26 Major follower  
27 Close security  
28 Spirit of (presidential plane)  
32 Ten cards  
33 Billfold item  
35 Sheltered  
36 Geena Davis sitcom  
37 Dye  
38 Organic compound  
44 Actor Donahue  
47 Conquer  
49 Remove by rubbing out  
50 Common ailments  
51 Red as —  
52 Disrespectable  
53 "New Gerty, Sweet" —  
54 Bare  
57 "I" — girl  
58 Effigy  
59 Staunch  
60 Afternoon  
61 Byrnes of "The King and I"

## HOROSCOPE FORECAST FOR MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 1997

By Linda C. Black, Tribune Media Services, Inc.

**ARIES:** (March 21 to April 19) There's a lot of work, and it has to be done perfectly. Somebody's nagging at you, too. These are not your favourite circumstances to be in. But the other person needs something you can provide, right now. So instead of thinking about how difficult it is for you, think of how much you'll be appreciated.

**TAURUS:** (April 20 to May 20) Be a rock of stability in the swirling currents of chaos. You need to be in two places at the same time. Meanwhile, an older person is rather loud, and definitely critical. Once you figure out what this one wants, provide it quickly. That may solve the problem.

**GEMINI:** (May 21 to June 21) Everybody wants your time and attention. Your only chance is to get organised. If you don't know how to do that, get a Virgo to help. It could be a very frustrating day or a very exciting one. It depends on your attitude. Go for the latter.

**MOON CHILDREN:** (June 22 to July 21) If you've been meaning to call a new friend, do it now. You're in an expansive phase. Try something a little more adventurous than usual. Why not learn a foreign language? It's bound to be helpful in your business and even in your social life. And it'll be fun.

**LEO:** (July 22 to August 21) The objective today is to make other peoples' money become your money. There are several different ways you can do that. One of them appears to involve people in foreign countries. This isn't easy, but it could be very rewarding. Besides, once you learn how, it will be a lot of fun. Your mechanical skills will come in handy.

**VIRGO:** (August 22 to September 22) Your focus should be on relationships. The kind of partner you need is someone who is widely creative. You are the practical one. What you need is a person who comes up with absolutely outrageous ideas. Romance is an important factor in your life right now, so that might be involved.

**LIBRA:** (September 23 to October 22) Finish up the past so you can get on with the future. Your old problems are getting in the way of the new project you're trying to start. Stop arguing, just do it. It's a good evening for romance, especially with somebody you've known for a long time.

**SCORPIO:** (October 23 to November 21) It looks like your sweetheart and a friend of yours are having a disagreement. You're in a good position to help them solve things peacefully. You can give them some really good advice. All you have to do is help them make a decision and you'll look like a hero. Go for it!

**SAGITTARIUS:** (November 22 to December 21) The conditions in effect today are not conducive to good concentration. You may notice you have a real short attention span. You're only one of many who have this problem. It will be easy to talk people into doing things, but they may change their minds later. Just be aware of that and you'll do fine.

**CAPRICORN:** (December 22 to January 20) You'd like to spend a lot more time visiting new places and gathering new ideas. Do that over the next couple of days. There's still work to be done, of course. There's always is, and there always will be. Don't let it prevent you from enjoying life!

**AQUARIUS:** (January 21 to February 19) You need more education so you can make more money. You're not actually interested in money at all. You're interested in education. You want to discover things that nobody else ever thought of. That's good. It will make you a lot of money.

**PISCES:** (February 20 to March 20) You need a person in your life who can help you put some of your magnificent ideas into action. Unfortunately, the very person who could help the most is the one you like the least. Instead of arguing, relax. You could become good friends, and a great team.

Birthstone of September: Sapphire — Lapis Lazuli

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## THE BETTER HALF. By Glasbergen



"Lately, his butterfly kisses feel like moth kisses."

## JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

REPIK  
SOYUM  
MOPSIE  
ONASAT

Print answer here: \_\_\_\_\_

## THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

by Henri Arnold and Mike Argillon



WHERE HIS RESOLUTION TO STOP USING CIGARETTES WENT.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: GULCH SLANT UPTOWN OUTLAW  
Answer: His claim of eating 50 hot dogs was this — TOUGH TO SWALLOW

JORDAN FINANCIAL MARKET												
HOUSING BANK CENTER AMMAN - JORDANIAN												
TELEPHONE: 607171 / 607179												
ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR SUNDAY 14/09/1997												
PAST 12 MONTHS HIGH	PAST 12 MONTHS LOW	COMPANY'S NAME	P / E	DIV.	NO. OF SHARES	NO. OF SHARES TRADED	VALUE TRADED JD	OPEN PRICE	CLOSE PRICE	CHANGE		
346,000	241,000	ARAB BANK	15.6	1.18	35	1300	441800	340.00	339.00	1.00	-	
2,340	1,680	JOR. NATIONAL BK.	8	0.00	107	96121	199649	2.07	2.04	0.03	-	
1,210	880	MID. EAST INV. BK.	59.8	0.00	9	2000	1826	91	91	0.00	-	
2,480	1,150	INDUSTRIAL DEV. BK.	8.9	7.03	5	550	1240	2.25	2.25	0.00	-	
5,200	4,600	THE HOUSING BK.	14.7	3.94	32	165650	827959	4.89	4.93	0.04	+	
1,050	760	JOR. GULF BANK	4.6	9.09	1	1000	770	7.7	7.7	0.00	-	
4,050	3,520	JOR. ISLAMIC BANK	15.7	3.11	2	600	2317	3.88	3.86	0.02	-	
1,620	1,110	SHILON BK. SAV. INV.	P	0.00	3	450	547	1.20	1.22	0.02	+	
2,280	890	REIT. AL-HAL (REITNA)	6	16.13	2	500	465	89	89	0.00	-	
1,440	850	PHILADEL. INV. BK.	9	0.00	9	8782	8003	91	91	0.00	-	
BANK SECTOR TOTALS			INDEX: 242.18	%CHG: -0.29	205	276953	1484574					
2,210	1,590	JOR. FRENCH INSUR.	4.9	8.62	2	2500	4350	1.74	1.74	0.00	-	
INSURANCE SECTOR TOTALS			INDEX: 114.70	%CHG: 0.00	2	2500	4350					
1,830	1,550	JOR. ELECTRIC PWR.	8.6	5.62	144	92900	169426	1.82	1.78	0.04	-	
2,320	1,320	JORD. ELECTRICITY	14.5	4.71	6	6950	16814	2.32	2.44	0.12	+	
7,500	6,000	VEHCLS. OWNERS FID.	7.9	4.83	3	1414	10252	7.25	7.25	0.00	-	
1,550	930	NATL. PORTFOLIO	11.0	2.92	11	10250	14660	1.43	1.40	0.03	-	
1,010	820	REAL ESTATE INV.	12.8	6.52	1	500	460	93	92	0.01	-	
7,190	3,900	AD-OUTSTOR	24.0	4.35	1	10000	57500	5.94	5.75	0.19	-	
1,790	1,150	MID. EAST HOTELS	18.1	0.00	1	1000	1190	1.25	1.19	0.06	-	
1,220	930	GARSA EDUCATION	9	0.00	2	700	202	1.02	1.01	0.01	-	
2,230	1,630	UNITED CO.	8.5	6.15	40	23700	43037	1.77	1.79	0.02	+	
1,010	640	UNION LAND DEV.	9	0.00	3	486	345	74	71	0.03	-	
SERVICE SECTOR TOTALS			INDEX: 111.78	%CHG: -0.69	212	147400	313885					
1,100	930	ATTANQOR	9	0.00	5	20750	20750	1.00	1.00	0.00	-	
4,050	3,220	JOR. CHEMIST FACT.	25.8	2.87	15	12687	48964	3.89	3.83	0.06	-	
4,140	1,000	JOR. PHOSPHATE MINES	10.6	2.62	2	100	381	3.70	3.82	0.12	+	
7,050	5,400	ARAB POTASS CO.	14.3	3.25	1	150	923	6.15	6.15	0.00	-	
10,900	9,070	JOR. PETROL. REFINERY	10.3	8.35	14	1342	14386	10.75	10.65	0.10	-	
7,150	5,800	JOR. PETROL. REFIN.	11.0	2.92	13	1700	11655	6.90	6.85	0.05	-	
4,640	3,040	ARAB PHARM. MANF.	12.4	4.44	18	4075	18493	4.59	4.50	0.09	-	
5,710	4,300	DAR ALDINA OV. INV.	14.1	4.34	23	9946	57137	7.71	7.76	0.05	+	
3,850	2,220	ARAB ALUM. IND.	5.6	10.42	4	800	1440	2.40	2.40	0.00	-	
4,950	3,800	LIVESTOCK & POULTRY	9.9	0.00	8	9950	4677	47	47	0.00	-	
1,480	790	NATIONAL STEEL IND.	9	0.00	1	250	203	82	81	0.01	-	
1,200	510	INTERMED. PETRO. CHEM.	9	0.00	5	2250	1255	56	55	0.01	-	
940	530	JOR. ROCCOOL IND.	9	0.00	1	300	189	64	63	0.01	-	
890	530	JOR. SULPHO-CHRM	9	0.00	1	1350	851	61	63	0.02	+	
1,670	1,120	ARAB PHARM. CHEM.	17.1	5.22	12	2650	3556	1.35	1.34	0.01	-	
1,880	1,080	UNIV. MODN. INDUS.	P	0.00	21	12	5750	7240	1.27	1.25	0.02	-
1,510	910	JOR. IND. RESOURCES	12.2	10.99	14	3850	3528	92	91	0.01	-	
1,220	1,300	NATL. CEMENT	14.8	4.46	6	4100	6447	1.59	1.57	0.02	-	
4,290	810	JOR. NEW CABLE CO.	15.4	0.00	10	6450	5367	84	84	0.00	-	
2,090	1,340	EL "RAY" READY WEAR	55.3	0.00	5	376	587	1.57	1.57	0.00	-	
1,350	1,080	UNIV. TOBACCO	6.3	0.00	6	3500	4040	1.16	1.16	0.00	-	
1,170	860	UNION CH. & VEG.	52.3	0.00	2	750	863	1.17	1.15	0.02	-	
INDUSTRIAL SECTOR TOTALS			INDEX: 122.11	%CHG: 0.00	167	92876	212929					
GRAND TOTAL			INDEX: 176.22	%CHG: -0.18	586	519729	2015739					
PARALLEL MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR SUNDAY 14/09/1997												
860	280	JOR. TRADE PAC.	10.7	0.00	6	10250	4100	40	40	0.00	-	
950	540	JOR. FIN. INV. CO.	9	0.00	41	98350	65895	66	67	0.01	+	
840	660	UNION INV. 501	9	0.00	14	33500	8040	74	74	0.00	-	
570	360	ARAB FIN. INVEST.	9	0.00	10	10000	3800	38	38	0.00	-	
950	610	AL-DAMLIYAH 752	73.9	0.00	3	461	239	77	77	0.00	-	
570	360	ARAB TEL. INV. CRD.	48.4	0.00	10	18550	7867	43	43	0.00	-	
750	400	NATL. MULT. ENG. MONICO	9	0.00	31	46450	20557	44	44	0.00	-	
960	890	READY MIX CONCRETE	11.2	0.00	1	10000	9300	90	90	0.00	-	
820	520	JORDAN STEEL	33.9	6.67	11	42500	31919	76	75	0.01	-	
730	580	MID-EAST PETRUM. 752	9	0.00	1	2700	1026	63	63	0.00	-	
1,190	860	UNION TOBACCO 752	9	0.00	15	23250	21815	1.18	1.19	0.01	+	
730	550	RAZI PHARM. 852	8	0.00	11	20000	10600	67	68	0.01	+	
570	290	INDS. ENG.	9	0.00	5	8300	2490	31	30	0.01	-	
860	690	INDS. ENG.	12.1	0.00	10	21650	7215	70	69	0.01	-	
820	590	NATL. POULTRY	E	0.00	2	1500	966	66	66	0.00	-	
1,000	790	NAT. ALUMINIUM. 752	97.4	0.00	24	22950	10413	71	70	0.01	-	
860	580	MID. EAST COMPLEX	7.6	16.13	14	21150	12999	60	62	0.02	+	
GRAND TOTAL					201	370961	212778					
T : New 12 months high N : Listed during the past 12 months P : P/E ratio is 100 or more g : Negative P/E E : Earnings is zero or N/A for the most recent year												



## Track king bids farewell

HOUSTON (AFP) — Carl Lewis, perhaps the greatest male track and field athlete of all time, leaned through the finishing tape and into a new life Saturday at the field where his career began over 15 years ago.

Lewis, 36, joined three other teammates from the Santa Monica Track Club for an exhibition 4x100m relay during the halftime of the Houston vs Pittsburgh college football game at Robertson Stadium.

Many of the fans, including some of Lewis' former teammates, wiped away tears as the Olympic champion took his final victory lap around the track, carrying flags from the United States and his alma mater, the University of Houston. "People are going to tell you that you can't do it, but you've got to keep pushing on," said Lewis, flanked by his family and university officials at center field.

"It's been a long road with lots of fights, but I'm proud to say I did it my way and it feels pretty good."

The run, which was untimed and in which the teammates ran unopposed, was one last lap of honour for Lewis, who capped his Olympic career at the 1996 Atlanta Games by winning the long jump — earning his fourth consecutive gold medal in that event and ninth gold medal overall.

Indeed, Lewis is a living legend throughout the world thanks to stunning performances that began at the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics, where he won four gold medals, including individual golds in the long jump, the 100-metre and



Nine-time Olympic gold medalist Carl Lewis completes an exhibition 4x100 metre relay on his home track at the University of Houston to mark his retirement from competitive track and field (Reuters photo)

the 200-metre runs. He matched the feat of Jesse Owens, who won four athletics golds at the 1936 Berlin Games.

Only U.S. swimmer Mark Spitz, Finnish distance runner Paavo Nurmi and Soviet gymnast Larisa Latynina have won as many gold medals.

On Saturday, Lewis returned to his roots in Houston for the final 100-metre relay with his team-

mates from the Santa Monica Track Club — Mike Marsh, Leroy Burrell and Floyd Heard. The team's coach, Tom Tellez, also was on hand for the event.

After the run, there was a small ceremony, at which a statement from President Bill Clinton praising Lewis' achievements was read.

Lewis also has given retirement exhibitions in Asia and in Europe in

recent weeks.

Marsh reflected on the team's success as he warmed up for the relay, holding a gold baton that marked the team's 4 x 200m world record run of 1:18:68 at the 1994 Mt. Sac Relays in Walnut, California. The team used the baton in Saturday's event.

"It's kind of like any ending, where you see your whole career and your friend's career kind of flash before your eyes," Marsh said.

"There's a lot of reminiscing and nostalgia going on. It's been a tremendous career for Carl and for all of us, to be able to work with him and (for him to) pass wisdom down. It's a very special day."

Although he's officially retired from world-class track and field, Lewis said he would continue to run exhibition races. He said he plans to continue his charity work with groups including his own Carl Lewis Foundation, established in 1984 to help disadvantaged youths.

Lewis, sporting dreadlocks and hoop earrings, said he was more worried about his final run Saturday than in the Olympics games.

"I tried to run a little faster for the cameras because I was told I don't look too good running slow," Lewis joked.

"I was reflecting on some of the last races and was probably more nervous than a regular race. If you drop it (baton), there isn't another chance."

## Graf to miss Masters

BONN (AFP) — Former World No. 1 Steffi Graf said Saturday that expectations she would return to action at the New York Masters were "unrealistic".

In an interview to be shown Sunday on German television, the seven-times Wimbledon champion said that although she had been guaranteed a wild card entry to the December event, she did not envisage being ready for top competition by then.

Graf, now ranked just seventh in the world, is still convalescing in Austria following knee surgery in June.

"It's been a very long break this time and I'm looking more at the Australian Open as my real comeback objective," explained Graf, who is due to play an exhibition match against Chanda Rubin of the United States on November 25 at Baltimore.

She added that her 59-year-old father Peter, serving a jail sentence for tax fraud, was in "very good shape".

Peter Graf was handed a three years and nine months sentence in January after he was found guilty of avoiding 12 million marks (\$7.5 million) in tax by a system of front companies which concealed from tax authorities 42 million marks of his daughter's income from 1989 to 1993.

With remission, he could be free by next March.

## Bubka concludes Grand Prix season

FUKUOKA (AFP) — Six-time world pole vault champion Sergei Bubka's attempt at a new world record of 6.15 metres closed the curtain to the successful IAAF Grand Prix series of the season.

"I think I had a good chance to break the world record with my third try over 6.15, but up there I got a strong side wind, which pushed me into the bar," said Bubka, leaping the best record of the season of 6.05m Saturday.

"I am optimistic. Until I start regularly losing, I will go on."

I would like to jump 6.20 and go back to an era when I was breaking the record almost at will," added the Ukrainian, 33.

Since all the athletes had been tired at the end of the season after peaking for the world championships in Athens last month, Bubka was the only probable record maker at the Grand Prix Final in Fukuoka.

A total of 10 world records were broken or equalled in the Grand Prix series this season, triggered by Australian female pole vaulter Emma George's 4.55m in Melbourne in February.

Bubka was followed by African runners who issued a warning to the world in the middle distances.

Denmark's Kenyan-born Wilson Kipketer, who made "unplanned" two world 800m records at the Paris world indoor championships in May, rewrote the world outdoor records three times in the past two months.

Kenya's Wilson Boit Kipketer established a new 3,000m steeplechase record of

7:59.08 on August 13, only to see his teammate Bernard Barmasai bettered it 11 days later by 3.36 seconds.

Haile Gebrselassie of Ethiopia held new records in the men's 5,000m and 10,000m races until Another Kenyans, Daniel Komen and Paul Tergat, rewrote them last month.

"There is no secret to my running. When you train, you must keep motivated. I have a long way to go in my career. This wonderful year is by no means the end," said the 24-year-old Kenyan-born Dane.

World champion Kipketer, who won the men's 800m to clinch the Grand Prix overall title for the first time, has not been beaten in the distance since the 1995 Grand Prix Final.

Kenya's Kipketer, Komen and Barmasai as well as former world record holder Moses Kiptanui failed to end the season on a winning note.

Their teammate and Atlanta champion Joseph Keter stole the show to win the 3,000m steeplechase, pulling off an upset victory over the world top three medalists who are current and former world record holders.

"I had a car accident at home in March and I couldn't train hard and compete in the Grand Prix until late May. But now I feel if I can train hard, I can beat a world record holder," said Keter, 28.

"They are my friends, anyway, and we have been competing for so long. But I'm really happy to have beaten them," he added.

## Ottey to concentrate on 100m

FUKUOKA (AFP) — Legendary Jamaican sprinter Merlene Ottey is determined to concentrate next season on the 100 metres — the distance in which a gold has eluded her in big international races.

"Marion," joked the Jamaican when she was asked about her highest target next year, after losing to the new American sprint queen Marion Jones in the women's 200m at the Grand Prix Final Saturday.

Jones, who lost to Ottey in the 100m in Tokyo a week ago, kept winning against the Jamaican in the 200m, clocking 21.84 to beat her by eight hundredths of a second to close the curtain to the season.

Ottey, 37, ended the season with a 2-3 win-loss record against Jones in the 100m and 0-3 in the 200m.

"For me, I don't really have a major championship, so the Grand Prix will be the target, just to see if I can do very well on the circuit and to run a personal best in the 100 metres," said Ottey.

She has collected seven Olympic medals, 14 in the world championships and six in the world indoor championships, but has never won a 100m gold in the Olympics or the world championships.

Ottey, the world 200m champion in 1993 and 1995, lost to American Gail Devers by

0.001 second in the 100m final at the 1993 world championships.

She had to be satisfied with the silver at the Atlanta Olympics in the photo finish 100m final to Devers by 0.005.

Last month in the Athens world championships, Ottey did not hear the recall after a false start and hit the 50-metre mark before she realised she was the only one running. She eventually ended at seventh in a re-run.

Jones emerged as the new sprint queen after the 21-year-old former basketball player won the photo finish final in her personal best of 10.83.

"I'll take a long vacation, because my body needs a rest. I'll take a rest and skip the indoor season for the first time in 16 years. You know, it lasts a bit longer to have a much better season next year," said Ottey.

"Then I'll start competing towards the end of May and hopefully focus mostly on the 100 metres, because I know I have to run 10.60 or 10.70 to have a chance to win some races next year."

"So I'll not have many 200 metres, just focus on the shortest sprint, which is 100 metres, so that way, I think I can do very well," she added.

## BASEBALL'S MAJOR LEAGUE RESULTS

### National League

San Diego	8	St Louis	3
Cincinnati	3	Philadelphia	0
Florida	8	San Francisco	1
NY Mets	9	Montreal	6 (11 Innings)

### American League

Cubs	4	Pittsburgh	1
Colorado	10	Atlanta	6
Houston	5	Los Angeles	1
Baltimore	6	NY Yankees	1
Chi White Sox	7	Cleveland	6
Kansas City	3	Anaheim	1 (13 Innings)
Oakland	4	Detroit	2
Boston	2	Milwaukee	1
Texas	9	Minnesota	3
Toronto	6	Seattle	3

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The closing date for submitting bids is 12:00 hours local time Monday, 6th October, 1997.

SAMEH MADANI  
MANAGING DIRECTOR

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## Moya crushes Rusedski

BOURNEMOUTH (AFP) — Number one seed Carlos Moya brushed aside the challenge of British star Greg Rusedski here on Saturday and will face Felix Mantilla in an all-Spanish final of the Bournemouth International.

Moya faces number two seed Mantilla, who beat the surprise semi-finalist, Marcos Ondruska of South Africa 6-7, 6-0, 6-1.

U.S. Open finalist Rusedski, who earlier this week achieved his aim of becoming the first ever British player to reach the world's top ten, looked jaded as he crashed out 6-2, 6-2 in just 49 minutes.

After dropping serve in the fifth game and again at the start of the second set, Montreal-born Rusedski was hardly in contention and Moya, the World No. 5, looked by far the better player on the slow clay court surface.

"I was down to empty mentally and physically," said the 24-year-old Rusedski.

"I finally hit the wall. But Moya played well and he is a very good player and I won't take anything away from him. He's easily in the world's top three on this kind of clay court surface and if you are not 100 per cent sharp it becomes even more difficult. But I got what I came for."

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CINEMA TEL:699238  
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Antonio Banderas...in  
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**A TIME TO KILL**  
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JPMC announces the invitation to bid No. 40F/97 for the supply of:  
1. Dump truck with crane QTY (1)  
2. Three tonnes truck QTY (1)  
The tender documents are available at JPMC offices in Amman, Supply Department, until 2:00 p.m. local time Monday, 29th September, 1997. Application for documents should be accompanied by a non-refundable fee of JD(25) for each set of tender documents.  
The closing date for submitting bids is 12:00 hours local time Monday, 6th October, 1997.  
SAMEH MADANI  
MANAGING DIRECTOR





Hector "Macho" Camacho ducks under a punch by Oscar De La Hoya during the third round of a WBC welterweight championship fight September 13 at the Thomas & Mack Centre in Las Vegas. De La Hoya won the 12-round fight by unanimous decision (Reuters photo)

## De la Hoya dominates Camacho

LAS VEGAS (AFP) — Oscar de la Hoya dismantled former champion Hector Camacho here Saturday to retain his World Boxing Council welterweight title with an easy 12-round decision.

De la Hoya posted victory margins of 120-105, 120-106 and 118-108 on the judges' scorecards. He remained unbeaten in 26 professional fights, but failed to grab the 22nd knockout he so wanted.

"Oh my gosh, I wanted that knockout so bad," De la Hoya, 34, said. "He did suffer for the whole 12 rounds."

Camacho suffered his fourth defeat along with 64 victories and one draw. The 35-year-old was knocked down for only the second time in his career when a barrage of blows sent him to the canvas in the ninth round.

## Wright hailed after breaking goal record

LONDON (AFP) — Ian Wright threw his boots and kit out of the dressing-room window to adoring fans in the street after breaking Arsenal's club goals record with a hat-trick in a 4-1 rout of Bolton on Saturday.

The maverick England striker, who scored twice against Moldova on Wednesday, completed a memorable week as he finally overhauled Cliff Bastin's 51-year-old 178-mark.

His manager Arsene Wenger, who believes Wright is one of the game's all-time great scorers, saluted the achievement.

"It is an historic moment," Wenger said. "The two goals he scored for England on Wednesday took the pressure off him today."

He had been one short of the record for three games and people started to ask when he was going to break it.

Meanwhile, reigning champions Manchester United went clear at the top of the Premiership after a 2-1 win over a battling West Ham at Old Trafford.

Liverpool had combative captain Paul Ince to thank after beating Sheffield Wednesday 2-1 for their second consecutive league victory.

Ince capped an outstanding game for the Merseyside giants with his second goal for the club since his summer move from Inter Milan.

Wednesday boss David Pleat saluted the England midfielder, saying: "There is an awe about Ince, people are afraid of him, afraid of upsetting him."

Chelsea crushed London rivals Crystal Palace 3-0 — even though manager Ruud Gullit decided to rest out his Italian stars Gianfranco Zola, Gianluca Vialli and Roberto Di Matteo.

Wimbledon, who were bottom of the table and without a win before Saturday produced the shock result of the day with a 3-1 victory at Newcastle.

Everton boss Howard Kendall was in a dark mood after seeing Andy Hinchcliffe sent off and six of his players booked as his side crashed to a 3-1 defeat at Derby.

Elsewhere, goals from Mark Draper, Ugo Ehiogu and Ian Taylor helped Aston Villa ease to a comfortable 3-0 away win against Premiership newcomers Barnsley.

## Jordan takes on China today at Asian Basketball Championship

By Aileen Bannayan  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

JORDAN'S MEN'S national basketball team takes on title-holders China Monday in the opening match of the second round of the 19th Asian Basketball Championship currently underway in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, with 15 teams taking part.

The Kingdom's team has a hard task against the powerful Asian giants bidding for their sixth consecutive title.

In other matches, the United Arab Emirates meet Saudi Arabia, Chinese Taipei play Iran while Korea face Japan.

Only the top two teams in each of the preliminary four groups moved to the second round.

China and Iran qualified from Group A which also included the Philippines and Bahrain.

South Korea and the United Arab Emirates qualified from Group B which also included India and Bangladesh.

Japan and Saudi Arabia qualified from Group C which included Hong Kong.

Jordan and Chinese Taipei qualified from Group D. The Kingdom's team beat Indonesia 71-49 and Kazakhstan 66-65 to qualify. They lost 68-60 to Chinese Taipei.

In the second round the top eight teams have been divided into two groups with the top two in each moving to the semifinal round.

Group A includes China, United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Jordan.

Group B includes Iran, South Korea, Japan, Chinese Taipei.

Bahrain, Bangladesh, Hong Kong, Indonesia, the Philippines, Indonesia and Kazakhstan will be playing for 9-15th places.

The competing teams include the top four from the last

championship and the hosts who qualified automatically. There are also two teams from each of the ABC's five regional zones.

Jordan and Iran automatically qualified from the West Asia Zone. Both teams took the two allocated slots following the withdrawal of Iraq and Syria from the pre-qualifiers which were due to be held in Tehran, Iran, in August.

The team's qualification to the second round is a positive result taking into account the inadequate preparation for the event in which Jordan last took part in 1995 with the junior team and came in 13th.

Following the team's disappointing sixth place finish at the Pan-Arab Games, a series of setbacks hampered serious preparation mainly the lack of funding which hindered having a training camp abroad of hosting teams in Amman for training matches.

The federation was seriously contemplating withdrawing from participation in Riyadh but later dropped the option as that would entail a \$10,000 penalty by the ABC.

The JBF had earlier in the year cancelled the women's participation in the Asian Championship in Bangkok.

The national team's best performance was a gold medal win at the 1985 Pan-Arab Games in Morocco. On the Asian level, the under-18 team won the bronze medal at the 1995 Asian Junior Championship enabling the team to become the first Jordanian team to qualify to a World Championship.

## SPORTS IN BRIEF

### Police arrest 17 fans

ARNHEM (AFP) — Dutch police arrested 17 disgruntled FC Utrecht supporters before, during and after Saturday's clash against local side Arnhem. The visiting fans went on the rampage and stoned police after their side crashed to a severe 5-0 defeat.

### Connors beats Borg

VINA DEL MAR (AFP) — U.S. star Jimmy Connors beat fellow veteran champion Bjorn Borg of Sweden 6-3, 5-7, 6-3 here in an exhibition match Saturday played on a fast Plexipave acrylic surface before a 4,000 crowd. It was the second time that Connors, 45, had defeated 41-year-old Borg in three days, having won another exhibition 6-3, 7-6 in Lima last Thursday.

### Henman to face Rosset for title

TASHKENT (AFP) — Britain's second-seeded Tim Henman swept into the final of the \$405,000 ATP tournament here Saturday when he beat Francisco Clavet of Spain 6-3, 7-5. Henman now plays third-seed Marc Rosset of Switzerland. Rosset came back to beat top-seeded Russian Yevgeny Kafelnikov 3-6, 7-6, 6-2.

### England hit by Ferdinand blow

LONDON (AFP) — Tottenham striker Les Ferdinand is doubtful for England's World Cup showdown with Italy in Rome next month after suffering a severe stomach strain in Tottenham's 3-0 defeat to Leicester on Saturday. Ferdinand, who played in England's 4-0 win over Moldova in Wednesday, had to be substituted at half-time and will have a scan on Sunday to determine the extent of the injury. But Tottenham manager Gerry Francis admitted

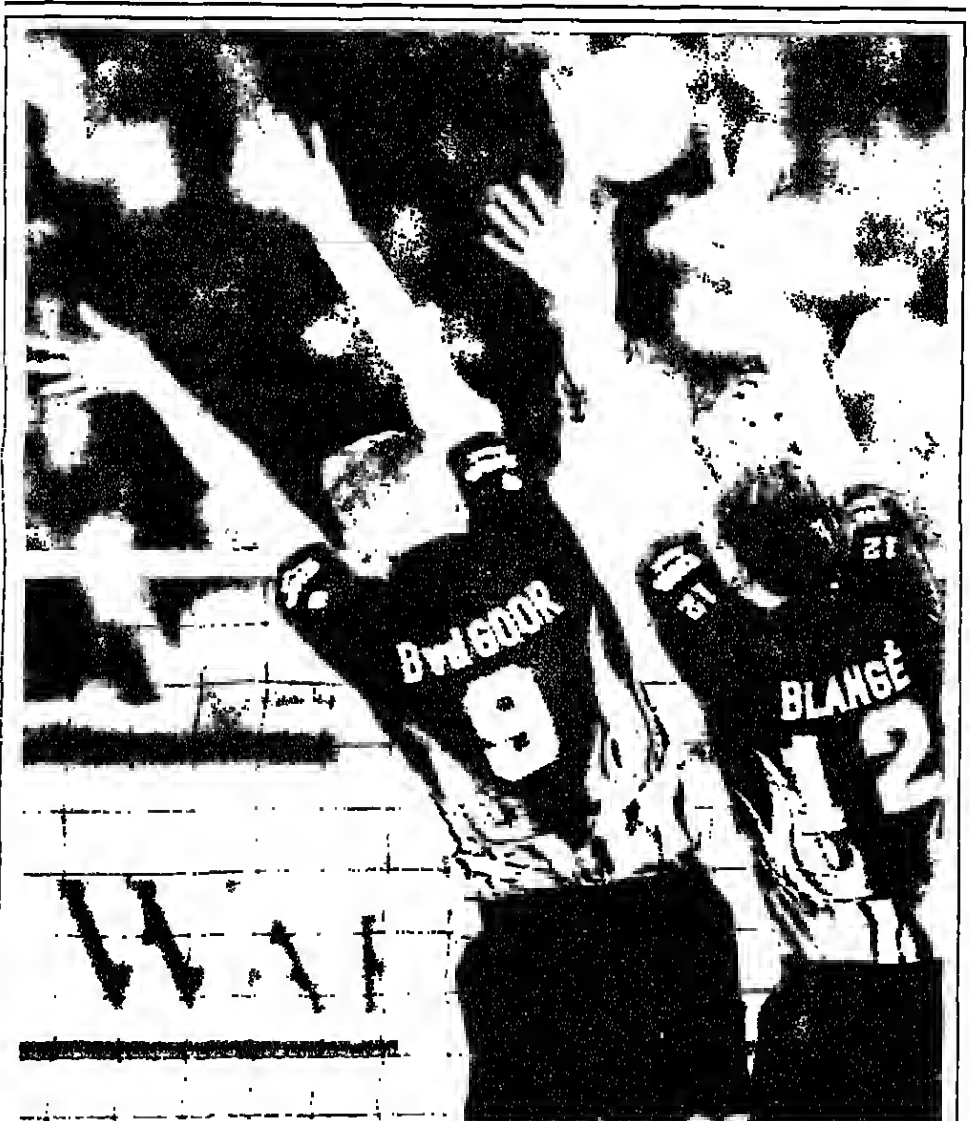
that Ferdinand could be out of action for several weeks. That would add to England manager Glenn Hoddle's current injury problems in attack as he gears up for the October 11 clash with the Italians. Francis said: "It is quite bad. He did the injury when training with England in the build-up to the match with Moldova but played at Wembley on Wednesday. "He also felt he could get through the Leicester game although I had my doubts when I saw the pain he was in during a workout he had on Saturday morning."

### Benfica held by newcomers

LISBON (AFP) — Portugal's Benfica, who face French side Bastia in the UEFA Cup on Tuesday, were held to a shock 1-1 league draw by first division newcomers Académica Coimbra on Saturday. Benfica, beaten 1-0 by Vitoria Setúbal last weekend, needed a headed goal from a corner by Moroccan Tahar two minutes from time to earn a share of the points. The visitors had gone clear in the 73rd minute through Mickey.

### Tyson and Holyfield to meet

WASHINGTON (AFP) — Evander Holyfield and Mike Tyson will meet next week for the first time since the infamous "Bite of the Century", at the request of boxing legend Muhammad Ali. The fighters will get together on Saturday after the conclusion of the Ali Cup amateur boxing tournament in Louisville, organisers said. In June, Holyfield retained his World Boxing Association (WBA) heavyweight title when Tyson was disqualified for "biting" both of his ears. "It is very important to Mike that he meets with Evander and puts a regrettable occurrence behind them," a Tyson spokesman said. A Holyfield spokesman said: "The meeting with Mike Tyson is a great way to do something that cleanses a great sport of something that all of us, both amateurs and professionals — regret."



Italy's Andrea Gardini (C) spikes the ball as Dutch Bas van de Goor (L) and Peter Blanche (R) try to block during their European Volleyball Championship semi final match in Eindhoven. Italy lost the match 3-0 (Reuters photo)

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1. Dump truck with crane QTY (1)
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The tender documents are available at JPMC offices in Amman, Supply Department, until 2:00 p.m. local time Saturday, 27th September, 1997. Application for documents should be accompanied by a non-refundable fee of JD(25) for each set of tender documents.

The closing date for submitting bids is 12:00 hours local time Saturday, 4th October, 1997.

SAMEH MADANI  
MANAGING DIRECTOR

## COMPUTER PROGRAMMER

LEAD Technologies, an American software development company based in Charlotte NC USA, is opening a local programming branch office in Amman. Five to six positions are available immediately for qualified C and Windows programmers. Starting salaries range between \$700.00 and \$1,500.00 per month depending on experience.

LEAD Technologies is a seven-year-old company, and develops and markets a product called LEADTOOLS. LEADTOOLS is an imaging toolkit designed to assist programmers who need to integrate digital imaging technology into their applications or systems. Digital imaging consists of color, grayscale or bi-tonal images. LEADTOOLS is used by over 7,000 programmers worldwide and by companies such as Microsoft, Corel, Delrina, Xerox, Kodak and AT&T.

### Job Requirements:

- \* At least 3 years full time experience programming with in C/C++ for Microsoft Windows.
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- \* Preferably, LEAD is looking for programmers who have a working knowledge of digital imaging, and ActiveX(OCX) and VBX programming components.

Representatives of LEAD Technologies will be in Amman from October 23rd until October 31st to conduct interviews. Please send a resume to Hussein Al-Khatib at PO Box 9065, Amman Jordan. Qualified candidates will be chosen from the resumes and contacted to arrange an interview time. Mr. Al-Khatib must receive your resume no later than October 6th for you to be considered for this position.

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- PART TIME EMPLOYEES:**
- (1) Native-Speaking English Language Editor.

Send your C.V. by fax to TRAC by Sept. 25, 1997.



## Prince Hassan, Atkinson discuss status of refugees

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Sunday stressed the need for realising the political rights of Palestine refugees, pointing to Jordan's unwavering support for their right to return and/or compensation.

Speaking during a meeting with British member of parliament David Atkinson at the Royal Court, Prince Hassan also underlined the importance of meeting the humanitarian rights of refugees and improving their living conditions.

Prince Hassan said Jordan has been working on improving the living standards of refugees and meeting their humanitarian needs in order to keep their issue alive. The humanitarian dimension of the refugees problem should not be neglected, said Prince Hassan, adding that improving the quality of life for refugees has been at the cen-



tre of the Kingdom's policies.

Mr. Atkinson, who is on a regional tour aimed at preparing a report on Palestinian refugees for the Council of Europe, said refugees must be given the choice to return to their homeland, emphasising the refugees' determination not to give up that right.

The Crown Prince also

pointed to the need for studying the humanitarian impact of the peace process which, he said, must be given "a human face" because permanent peace in the region cannot be achieved unless people feel secure and their humanitarian rights fulfilled.

The meeting was attended by the British ambassador to Jordan.

## One year in prison with hard labour for Saudi daily chiefs

CAIRO (AFP) — An Egyptian court Sunday sentenced the publishers of the Saudi daily Ashqar Al Awsat, the editor-in-chief and two employees to one year in prison with hard labour for defaming President Hosni Mubarak's sons.

Osman Al Omreih, the Saudi editor-in-chief of Ashqar Al Awsat, and the Saudi publishers Hisham and Mohammad Ali Hafez, were also ordered to each pay (\$6,000), the criminal court at Abdeen said.

Two Egyptian employees of the newspaper, Director Fawziya Salama and her Deputy Gamal Ismail, were also given a one-year prison sentence and fined.

The five senior executives were sentenced in absentia.

The author of the article, Egyptian journalist Sayeed Abdel Au, was handed a six-month jail term and ordered to pay a (\$4,500) fine.

A lawyer for the London-based Saudi press group, Mohammad Asfur, dismissed the criminal court's verdict as "biased" and told AFP he would appeal the ruling within two days and seek to have it thrown out.

Mr. Asfur argued that the court did not have the jurisdiction to try such a case because the Arabic-language daily is published in London and therefore only a British court could hear the matter.

Mr. Mubarak's sons Gamal and Alaa sued for defamation after Ashqar Al Awsat said in May that its sister publication Al Jadida magazine would publish an article implicating them in a corruption affair.

But the publication did not go ahead with the story, which had been announced in an advertisement carried by Ashqar Al Awsat in May.

The London-based Saudi press group announced the

closure of its Cairo offices effective Thursday, four days before the verdict was announced, to protest what it said was the "unfair" treatment in its trial.

The parent company, Saudi Research and Marketing, the Arab World's largest publisher, said in a statement: "Since what has happened is considered an unjustifiable mistake we found out that it was our duty to apologise to those concerned." It also complained, however, over "the manner in which the case was handled and since we were denied the legal opportunity which is provided even to criminals and thieves and were not allowed to present our case."

Lawyers of the group stormed out of last Sunday's hearing charging that they were not a chance to respond to the prosecution's accusations. Ashqar Al Awsat said in a front page report Sunday.

## Kuwait welcomes Philippine decision to lift ban on maids

MANILA (AFP) — Kuwait has welcomed the lifting of a Philippine ban on maids flying out to work in the Gulf state, the presidential palace said in a statement Sunday.

With the lifting of the ban, Kuwait and the Philippines signed Sunday a bilateral agreement on the protection of the Filipinos' welfare in Kuwait, the statement said.

On Friday the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA) said it would allow the processing of "qualified workers" applying as household workers in Kuwait and Saudi Arabia.

"The state of Kuwait welcomed our decision," POEA Chief Wilhelm Soriano said.

Kuwait's Foreign Minister and acting Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah and Deputy Prime Minister and

Finance Minister Nasser Abdullah met Philippine President Fidel Ramos late Saturday in Kuwait City and told him that the Kuwaiti officials had been informed of the news, the statement said.

The two officials told Mr. Ramos that Kuwait would give "full protection to the rights of the 58,000 Filipino overseas workers in the Gulf state," it said.

Mr. Ramos was quoted as saying that the lifting of the ban would be "for the better" because of the improved situation in Kuwait.

Mr. Ramos arrived in Kuwait Saturday for a three-day visit to discuss the welfare of Filipino workers here and to seek Kuwaiti aid.

Following the 1995 execution in Singapore of convicted murderer Flor Contemplacion, a Filipina

maid, Manila imposed a ban on the deployment of women workers to areas where they are perceived to be at high risk of harassment or abuse.

Applicants below the age of 25 remain banned from working in these countries, the POEA added.

Labour officials estimated that the number of illegal Filipino workers in Kuwait numbered more than 13,000. The Filipinos working in Kuwait hold jobs as production workers, transport equipment operators, labourers, technical workers and domestic helpers, the palace statement said.

Remittances from Filipino workers in Kuwait fell 20 per cent from the previous year to \$21.47 million in 1996.

Bilateral trade last year was \$34 million, a sharp decrease from \$202 million in 1992.

## U.N. to allow Iraq to meet goal of selling all \$2.14 billion of oil

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — The U.N. Security Council will agree Friday to allow Iraq to sell all of the \$2.14 billion in oil that it is allowed under the U.N.'s oil-for-food deal, U.N. spokesman Fred Eckhard said.

The resolution allows for a change in the timetable under which Iraq makes the sales.

Iraq was allowed to sell \$1.07 billion of oil in two 90-day periods. It is currently in its second six-month period of selling oil for food.

Iraq had delayed the resumption of sales, how-

ever, in part to protest the late arrival of aid and to renegotiate parts of the aid distribution plan. The delay made it come up \$500 million short in the first 90 days.

Friday's resolution will allow it to sell \$1.07 billion of oil in 120-day and 60-day periods. The U.N. action keeps the original amount of oil and the same total time period.

Iraq was banned from unrestricted oil sales under sanctions imposed in 1990 in the wake of Iraq's invasion of Kuwait.

But last year, the U.N. agreed to allow Baghdad to

sell oil to buy food and medicine.

This is the second six-month period under the oil-for-food deal. In the first, from December 1996 to June of this year, Iraq also sold some \$2 billion in oil.

The Security Council is expected to approve the measure when it is put to a vote in a 3:00 p.m. session.

About two-thirds of the proceeds of the oil sale pay for aid to Iraq, which has suffered under U.N. sanctions, including an oil embargo, since August 1990 in the wake of Iraq's invasion of Kuwait.

But last year, the U.N. agreed to allow Baghdad to

## Erekat says Albright's visit is 'the beginning and not the end'

By Tareq Ayyoub  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A senior Palestinian negotiator Saturday said that the U.S. secretary of state's maiden visit to the Middle East should be given a chance to produce results, and that it is a start towards restoring confidence and reviving peace, not an end.

"I think it is premature to jump to conclusions or to throw descriptions at Madeleine Albright's visit," said Saeb Erekat, minister of local government in the Palestinian National Authority (PNA), following an hour-long meeting with Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali, during which he delivered a message from Palestinian President Yasser Arafat to His Majesty King Hussein.

Ms. Albright's visit is "the beginning and not the end. What is important now is the kind of recommendation she will submit to President (Bill) Clinton and what will be the next steps."

Dr. Erekat said that the Palestinians told the U.S. secretary of state that they are willing to cooperate and that they want to work to establish "the mechanism and foundation to ensure the accurate and precise implementation of the agreements signed."

The Palestinian official warned that Israel's right-wing policies endanger peace in the Middle East and urged the U.S. administration to exert maximum efforts to avoid further escalation.

"It is no secret to say that



Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali confers with Palestinian Minister Saeb Erekat at the Prime Ministry, Sunday. Dr. Erekat voiced hope that U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright's visit to the region will be the start towards a breakthrough in the current peace crisis (Photo by Yousef Allan)

confidence is lost between us and the Israeli government, and this has motivated a third party mediation, namely the U.S.," Dr. Erekat told reporters.

"It is very dangerous times, very dangerous circumstances and we want the American administration to exert every possible effort to restore confidence and credibility to the peace process and then put the peace process back on track," Dr. Erekat said.

The Palestinian official said that the PNA has lost confidence because of the continuous Israeli violation of agreements signed between the Palestinians and Israelis, the closure of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip and what he described

as "collective Israeli punishment."

He said the PNA has accepted an American proposal to send a negotiation team to Washington to meet with U.S. officials adding that another Israeli team will be in Washington at the same time for the same purpose.

Dr. Erekat emphasised that the two separate meetings will pave the way for a trilateral meeting in New York under the supervision of Ms. Albright.

Dr. Erekat said that during talks with Ms. Albright, the Palestinians informed the U.S. official that 150 Palestinians were killed at the hands of "Israeli terrorists, none of them sent to court."

He added that the PNA perceives Israeli settlement policies as a "threat to Palestinian security, therefore a base for security framework should be created."

The Palestinian official said that as a result of the Israeli closure of the PNA territories, the economic loss amounted to \$258 million and described the Israeli closure as "total destruction to the Palestinian economy."

The Palestinian official said that his visit to Jordan was to deliver a message from President Yasser Arafat to King Hussein and also to brief the Jordanian leadership on the outcome of the talks with the U.S. official.

## Rabin's widow says Netanyahu's 'peace in security' policy is bluff

### Peres calls on peace supporters to unite

PARIS (R) — The widow of assassinated Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin said in an interview published Sunday that the "peace in security" policies of his successor Benjamin Netanyahu were a bluff.

"It's all bluff. There is no more peace than there is security," Leah Rabin told the weekly newspaper Le Journal Du Dimanche.

"Anyway, I'm not surprised because Bibi (Netanyahu) was elected thanks to the support of some of the religious nationalist fanatics who called for my husband's murder."

"We must do something," said Ms. Rabin, who Saturday addressed an anti-Netanyahu rally in Tel Aviv.

"We cannot stand with our arms crossed while Netanyahu's government goes about systematically

destroying peace and killing hope."

"In my worst nightmares, I could not have imagined that we could reach the point we are at now," she said.

Ms. Rabin said it was possible Palestinian President Yasser Arafat could do more to curb attacks against Israeli civilians, as Mr. Netanyahu demands, but that Israel had placed him in "an untenable position."

Former Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres Sunday called on the country's many peace movements to unite under one umbrella to save the faltering peace process.

There are 22 pacifist movements in Israel, and it would be good if they were managed by one organisation," the former Labour Party leader told Israel Radio, without saying

whether he would wish to lead such a body.

He added that U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright called me Friday to say that she had not succeeded in relaunching peace efforts" during her three-day visit to Israel and the Palestinian territories.

Mr. Peres, one of the architects of the 1993 Oslo peace accords with the Palestinians, on Saturday told the crowd of 20,000 peace activists in Tel Aviv that Israel's right-wing government was dragging the country to war.

The Haaretz daily said Labour Deputy Moshe Shahal is the driving force behind a project to group the pro-peace organisations under Mr. Peres' leadership.

Mr. Shahal said Mr. Peres wanted to save the peace process, which has been in

crisis since right-wing Likud Prime Minister Netanyahu won elections in May last year on a headline platform ruling out the exchange of Arab land for peace.

Mr. Peres stepped down as Labour leader in June, handing over to pragmatic former army chief-of-staff Ehud Barak.

But under an internal Labour party agreement, Mr. Peres was designated to lead any negotiations with Mr. Netanyahu for a national unity government before Sept. 15 — a prospect that is now dead in the water.

Mr. Peres shared the Nobel Peace Prize with slain Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin for forging the Oslo peace accords with the Palestinians, which were signed four years ago on the White House lawn.

## Iran fears economic results of EU ban on pistachios, says media hype is false

TEHRAN (AFP) — Iran denied as "unfair" on Sunday a European Union (EU) ban on its pistachio nuts because of alleged contamination and voiced fears of the economic impact of the move on the vital agricultural sector.

"The media hype surrounding our pistachio nuts is false and does not reflect the truth. We are astounded by such a hue and cry," Agriculture Minister Issa Kalantari told a press conference.

"We understand the EU's concern over health matters, but to trumpet it so is unfair to our pistachio growers," he added.

The EU decided Tuesday to suspend imports of Iranian pistachios because some of the nuts were allegedly contaminated with the carcinogen aflatoxin B1, which is extremely toxic.

The European Commission said it had been alerted to the problem by the Dutch authorities.

But Mr. Kalantari said Iran "strictly abides by all the standard regulations dictated to us by the EU. The chances of contamination are almost zero."

The EU ban, which is to remain in force until at least Dec. 15, comes as producers complete the harvest and just ahead of the two-month period when most pistachios are exported to Europe.

It could seriously affect producers of what are considered to be the world's finest pistachios.

In another blow, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) said Friday it had also banned imports of Iranian pistachio nuts until they can be tested.

Pistachio nuts are the third-largest source of hard currency earnings for Iran after oil and carpets.

Last year, Iran exported 130,000 tonnes of pistachios earning more than \$500 million.

Gulf Arab states and Asian

countries are other importers of Iranian nuts.

Approximately 400,000 hectares of land in Iran are cultivated with pistachio trees, and the country was hoping to double its current production of 200,000 tonnes per year in five years.

According to official figures, around 270,000 people work full-time on pistachio farms and another 80,000 in related sectors.

In 1996, Iran exported 90,000 tonnes of pistachio nuts to Europe earning \$360 million. Around 95 per cent of the pistachios consumed in Europe come from Iran and the rest from Turkey, Syria and the United States.

To make matters worse, up to two-thirds of Iran's crop was destroyed by cold weather this spring in the main pistachio-growing region of Kerman, south Iran, Mr. Kalantari said.

"This year we will not have a lot of nuts to sell, whether or

not Europe wants to keep the ban in place," he warned.

The minister raised the possibility that the toxic pistachios detected in Netherlands could have been shipped there from a third country, where they had possibly been stored for too long and contaminated.

The toxin occurs naturally if the pistachios are stored or transported in humid conditions. "Just one container in Holland cannot be a proof of the contamination of all of the pistachios," the minister said.

"Last year, we exported 5,000 containers of the nuts to Europe, and even if one container is contaminated it cannot be extended to the entire shipment."

"What the Europeans are saying is technically wrong," said the minister who treated journalists to high-quality local pistachios after the news conference. "We grow our nuts organically and use the minimum chemical fertilisers."

## Chelsea to college on Air Force One

WASHINGTON (AFP) — President Bill Clinton and his wife Hillary will be just some of the parents dropping off their child as part of a traditional ritual this week at Stanford University. But first daughter Chelsea Clinton, who starts studies at the California university, will be getting a ride on Air Force One with Secret Service accompaniment.

## McCartney gave Jagger his first joint

LONDON (AFP) — Former Beatle Paul McCartney has admitted in a biography to be published in October that he introduced Rolling Stones singer Mick Jagger to cannabis in 1966. In the book entitled "Many Years From Now" by Barry Miles, excerpts of which appeared Sunday in The Observer, McCartney reveals that it was Bob Dylan who introduced him to cannabis in 1964 in a New York hotel room.

Two years later in London, McCartney introduced Jagger to the drug. It was "funny, because everyone would have thought it would have been the other way round," McCartney said.

McCartney said that his visit to Jordan was to deliver a message from President Yasser Arafat to King Hussein and also to brief the Jordanian leadership on the outcome of the talks with the U.S. official.

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